Saturday, November 15, 2025 No 315 ₹8

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

We believe in 'speed of doing business', says Naidu

P12

ORR: Traffic cops want pay-and-park system in IT parks

To discourage personal vehicle usage; cops hope for 30% congestion cuts

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to tackle the ever-increasing congestion along the Outer Ring Road, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have asked large tech parks and private companies to introduce a pay-and-park system on their premises.

Aimed at discouraging the use of personal vehicles, this initiative could reduce congestion by 30%, top police officers who are working on different ways of easing the traffic flow on the tech corridor told *DH*.

The government plans to collaborate with the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and other state transport bodies to create shared transport (bus pooling) services for IT companies.

The goal is to design bus routes based on employees' common commuting patterns, encouraging them to use shared transport instead of personal vehicles, thereby reducing traffic and congestion.

Slow-moving traffic snarls on Outer Ring Road near Marathahalli. DH FILE PHOTO

The first request on parking fees was made to tech companies in a recent high-level meeting to discuss the ORR congestion problem.

Besides senior government and police officers, Biocon Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Yulu Co-founder RK Misra were also present on the occasion.

The traffic police pointed out that Bengaluru registers a staggering 3,000 new vehicles daily. The majority of IT employees use four-wheelers, even if they are single occupants, as they receive free parking at their companies.

The BTP estimates that if companies start charging parking fees, at least 10% will stop using their vehicles and switch to public transport. Thus, if 10% stop bringing vehicles, 30% of the congestion will be solved.

However, Mazumdar-Shaw rejected the suggestion and countered it, telling the BTP to implement a congestion tax, a senior traffic official said.

Sahil Bagla, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, East), stated: "Mainly in the mornings, I have seen a lot of single drivers on the ORR. So as to mitigate the congestion, we suggested the idea to charge a parking fee on an experimental basis, as some might shift to public transport. They can also do voluntary, non-commercial carpooling. Four or five employees living in the same place can pool in."

The police also suggested that companies request public transport services, including bus stops, as per their requirements to address the congestion.

▸ ORR, Page 4

Govt notifies personal data protection rules

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre has released the Personal Data Protection Rules 2025 on Friday, which will be implemented in phases spread over 12-18 months.

The rules aim to give citizens control over their data, allow them to check for misuse, and protect their privacy. However, they will be fully operational only after 18 months.

Details on Page 12

Double-decker to have 5 ramps

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's longest double-decker corridor planned under Namma Metro's Phase 3 will feature entry/exit ramps at five locations and loops at nine places to serve local traffic needs, according to senior officials.

BMRCL will build the 37.121-km double-deck viaduct in the corridors of 44.65-km Phase 3, which will have two corridors.

Free textbooks for PU students

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government will extend the free-textbook scheme to Pre-University courses students at government and aided colleges from the next academic year.

Considering the dip in admissions at government Pre University colleges the department has decided to extend the fee textbook distribution scheme to PU courses too.

Details on Page 3

Find political solution first before restoring Manipur govt: Kukis to BJP

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Kuki groups in conflict-torn Manipur have asked the BJP's central leadership to find a "political settlement" to the conflict before the formation of a "popular government", as demanded by the Meitei MLAs.

The Kuki Zo Council (KZC), an umbrella body of Kuki-Zo organisations, conveyed this to BJP national general secretary B L Santosh and the party's Northeast in-charge Sambit Patra during a meeting in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur on Thursday.

The two senior leaders met BJP MLAs and other leaders in Meitei-dominated Imphal on Wednesday before meeting the KZC delegation.

Meitei MLAs have been demanding the restoration of the government, which has remained suspended since President's Rule. The KZC's stance is seen as a setback to the BJP's efforts to restore the government.

Around 260 have died, and over 60,000 have been displaced due to the conflict.

"During the interaction, the KZC delegation apprised the visiting leaders of our collective position, emphasising the need to maintain the status quo along the buffer zone and pursue an early political settlement for the Kuki-Zo before the invocation of any popular government in Manipur," said the KZC in a statement issued on Thursday night.

"The delegation made it categorically clear that we are not opposed to the BJP government. However, the prevailing ground realities have made it untenable for the Kuki-Zo community to participate willingly in the process of forming a new state government at this juncture," it added.

▸ Manipur, Page 4

Security forces demolish house of doctor behind Delhi blast

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Security forces have demolished the Pulwama residence of Dr Umar Nabi, the prime accused in the Red Fort blast case, using a controlled explosion—marking yet another escalation in Jammu and Kashmir's ongoing campaign against terror networks following this year's devastating Pahalgam attack.

The demolition was carried out during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. Officials said the two-storey house in Koil village was brought down after investigators concluded that Umar, a medical professional, played the central role in the car bombing near the Red Fort, which killed 13 people and injured several others.

Umar's identity was confirmed after DNA samples collected from the blast site matched with those of his mother.

Debris of the demolished house in Pulwama. PTI

Reports said the demolition was carried out past midnight with the area sealed off and additional security deployed. According to investigators, forensic reconstruction of the Delhi blast, CCTV imagery placing Umar behind the wheel moments before detonation and subsequent digital tracing of his movements formed the basis for the crackdown on his assets in Kashmir.

▸ Demolish, Page 4

Karnataka's environment icon passes away

BENGALURU, DHNS

Saalumarada Thimmakka, a grassroots environmentalist who became a household name in Karnataka, has passed away. She was 114.

Thimmakka, suffering from age-related illness, had been receiving treatment for respiratory problems for the past two days. She passed away at a private hospital on Friday, according to people close to her family.

Thimmakka had been hospitalised several times in recent years for age-related complications, including for a hip surgery and an angioplasty.

Saalumarada Thimmakka (1911-2025)

A native of Hulikal in Magadi taluk, Thimmakka was known for her love for trees and the environment.

She is estimated to have planted 385 banyan trees along a 4.5-kilometre stretch between Hulikal and Kudur, and 8,000 other trees.

In an interview to *DH*, Thimmakka had reflected on her life's journey.

"Even after 25 years of marriage, I couldn't conceive. My husband and I were distraught, he more than me. So I told him not to be. I told him we could plant trees and take care of them like our children. That is why we started planting trees," she had reminisced.

Fondly remembered as 'Vriksha Mathe', Thimmakka was honoured with Padma Shri in 2019. She was also honoured with the Nadoja award in 2010 and the Veerachakra Prashasthi in 1997. She was also featured on the 'BBC 100 women' list in 2016.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Thimmakka's love for the environment would keep her alive in people's hearts.

Last rites at Kalagrama today

Thimmakka's mortal remains will be kept for public viewing at Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road, between 7.30 am and 10.30 am on Saturday. She will be cremated with state honours at Kalagrama near Jnanabharathi.

Double-decker: Loops in 9 areas for local traffic

City's longest flyover under Rs 9,692-cr project, deadline 2030

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's longest double-decker planned under Namma Metro's Phase 3 will feature entry/exit ramps at five locations and loops at nine places to serve local traffic needs, according to senior officials with knowledge of the matter.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will build the 37.121-km double-deck viaduct in both corridors of 44.65-km Phase 3, which will have two corridors.

The first corridor—JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura, covering the western stretch of the Outer Ring Road—will include a 28.486-km double-decker from Delmia Circle to Hebbal. This will make it the city's longest flyover.

The second metro line—Hosahalli to Kadabagere along Magadi Road—will include a 8.635-km double-decker from KHB Colony to Kadabagere.

The metro line will run on the lower deck, with the metro line above, similar to the Ragigudda-Silk Board Junction double-decker.

In Corridor 1, the double-decker will begin at Delmia Circle—where the existing flyover will be torn down—with a 631-metre entry/exit ramp. Its end point will be Hebbal, where the flyover will separate from the metro line. The flyover will branch off towards the airport while the metro line will continue towards Kempapura, the terminal station.

In Corridor 2, entry/exit ramps are planned at KHB Colony (Hosahalli), Sunkadakatte and Kadabagere.

At Sunkadakatte, ramps will run on either side of the depot to reduce the viaduct height. This will allow the depot entry-line ramp to fit within the available land.

Corridor 1 will have loops totalling 5.565 km at seven locations: Sarakki Junction (Kanakapura Road), NICE Road, Mysuru Road, Vinayaka Layout, Sumanahalli Junction (Magadi Road), Goraguntepalya (Tumakuru Road) and Hebbal (towards the airport).

Corridor 2 will have 3.19 km of loops at two locations—Sumanahalli Junction and NICE Road.

Except for the Delmia Circle flyover, the double-decker will run either beside or above existing flyovers at Hosakerehali, Mysuru Road, Nagarabhavi and Sumanahalli.

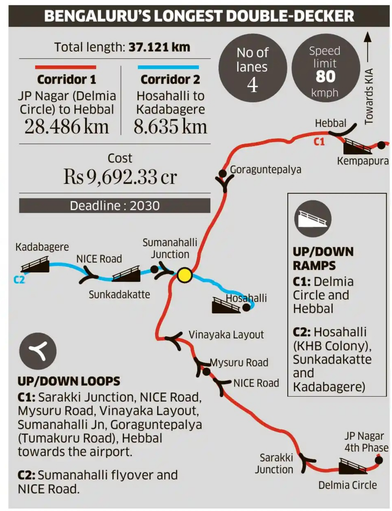
The Rs 9,692.33-crore double-decker project will be fully funded by Karnataka, with the state government contributing 50%, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) 10% and the remaining 40% through loans.

Toll charges

As per the feasibility-cum-Detailed Project Report (DPR), the project's Financial Internal Rate of Return (FIRR) will be 16.5% with combined revenue from the metro and the tolled road, making it financially viable.

The government plans to collect tolls but charges have not been finalised, *DH* reported in September 2025.

Although the Centre approved Phase 3 on August 16, 2024, civil works have been delayed due to the double-decker plan. While Phase 3's tentative deadline is May 2031, the double-decker is expected to be completed by 2030.



The BMRCL has prepared a Detailed Design Consultancy (DDC) report incorporating the double-decker and plans to call tenders in the coming weeks.

A single contractor will build both the metro and the flyover.

6 interchange stations

Phase 3 will have six interchange stations: JP Nagar 4th Phase (Pink Line), JP Nagar (Green Line), Mysuru Road (Purple Line), Sumanahalli Cross (C1 and C2), Goraguntepalya (Green Line) and Kempapura (Blue Line).

CM praises Shivakumar's efforts over favourable SC ruling on Mekedatu

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah claimed on Friday that Tamil Nadu was opposing the Mekedatu project for "political reasons" and not on objective parameters, and congratulated his Deputy D K Shivakumar for the favourable Supreme Court ruling.

"In normal times, we need to provide 177.25 tmcft water to Tamil Nadu each year. Through Mekedatu, 67 tmcft will be stored and 400 MW of power will be generated. If there's no water, we will give them that water. This will benefit Tamil Nadu more than us. They are just opposing it for political reasons but it's not based on reality," Siddaramaiah said after releasing 'Neerina Hejje - Vivada - Oppanda - Teerpu' a book written by Shivakumar.

Siddaramaiah said: "When we planned the Mekedatu padayatra, there was a lot of opposition to it. But D K Shivakumar was very particular that it should happen and even I supported it. After the padayatra, Tamil Nadu went to the Supreme Court and their appeal was rejected on Thursday. In this, Shivakumar's efforts are also there. I congratulate him on behalf of the government."

He slammed the opposition BJP-JD(S) combine for not speaking about the "injustice" to the state and wondered why BJP leader and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi wasn't speaking about Karnataka with the Union government.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah releases 'Neerina Hejje', a book penned by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Shivakumar recollected that he had first become the irrigation minister in 2019, when the H D Kumaraswamy-led Congress-JD(S) government was in power. "During the coalition government, I wanted to remain as energy minister. I, Siddaramaiah, Parameshwara, Rahul Gandhi and Venugopal were there. Rahul asked if I have trust in him. When I said yes, he asked me to take up irrigation. I have researched and written a lot of things."

Speaking about the Supreme Court ruling, he said: "The strength of this ruling can only be understood by those in the administration. A separate Mekedatu division and office have already been created. Earlier, there was a DPR, but we now have to enhance it."

Referring to the Upper Krishna Project, Shivakumar said: "They (Union government) had assured us Rs 5,300 crore. Bommai said it will be given but no one has the capacity to ask... They (opposition MPs) simply talk."

The book, presented by journalist Hamid Palya, looks into interstate and intercountry water disputes.

Large-scale cleaning drive by two corporations today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Central and East Corporations have scheduled to hold an intensive mass cleanliness drive on Saturday.

While the East corporation plans to cover a total of 20 km between 6 am to 10 am, the Central corporation has proposed to cover about 13 km during the same period.

The stretches identified are: TC Palya Main Road from Ramamurthy Nagar Bridge to Bhattarahalli (8 km) and State Highway 35 from Varthur Kodi Junction to Kadugodi Bridge (12 km).

This shows the corporation has picked the worst-maintained stretches for the cleanliness drive.

On TC Palya Main Road, drain and footpath improvement work is underway, but the slow work has created more trouble than help.

The Central corporation has planned the drive on important stretches in Shanthinagar, C V Raman Nagar, Shivajinagar, Gandhinagar, Chickpet and Chamarajpet.

Record footfall at Krishi Mela: Battery stoves, Rs 2.4-lakh ram captivate crowds

BENGALURU, DHNS

The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) campus at GKVK witnessed an overwhelming surge of visitors on Friday, the second day of the annual agricultural fair, with the turnout reaching a record 11.85 lakh.

While formal-stage programmes were largely ignored, attendees flocked to the exhibition stalls, where a blend of indigenous livestock, high-tech farm aids, and village innovations stole the show.

The main point of curiosity for many was the unique, battery-powered wood stove. Designed for village homes, the stove uses a slow, battery-assisted air supply to ensure four small pieces of wood can sustain cooking for an entire day while significantly reducing smoke. "The smoke-free operation and low wood requirement are a boon for village homes. It's a small technology that brings big change," noted Geetha M, a visitor from Tumakuru.

Children look at the sunflowers in full bloom at the Krishi Mela, organised by the the University of Agricultural Sciences, at GKVK on Friday. DH PHOTO/KISHORE KUMAR BOLAR

Elsewhere, the animal husbandry pavilion captivated visitors with livestock breeds like the uniquely horned Hallikar, Ongal, and the hornless Rathi cattle.

However, the Naati Suvarna Ram, weighing up to 85 kg, garnered attention for its price tag. Valued at Rs 3,000 per kg, an 80-kg ram was priced at Rs 2.40 lakh. A breeder, Suresh Gowda, explained the valuation, stating, "At this price, the ram is more than livestock; it is an asset. Its size, health, and breed quality justify the investment for serious farmers."

The fair also saw strong demand for home use agricultural tools and decorative plants like celosias and marigolds, with the youth busy capturing photos amidst the blooming sunflower fields. The Food Fair, featuring delicacies from Davangere Benne Dose to North Karnataka Rotti, was also a major crowd puller. University officials confirmed the day's total turnover touched a massive Rs 1.08 crore.

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WHACKY VERSE

Gutted bandhan

Biharis didn't open the door
For the loquacious P Kishor.
As for young Tejashwi
He's far from yashaswi—
Nitish is the one with the roar.

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

India seize advantage over South Africa

Bumrah claims five to bowl out visitors for 159 in 1st Test

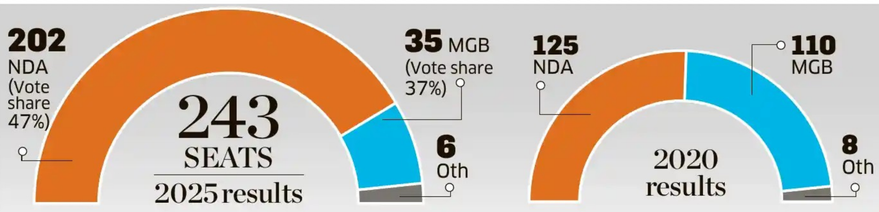
P17

A people lost in plain sight

The SATURDAY STORY

Nomadic and semi-nomadic communities are bewildered in a world that demands citizenship papers, birth certificates, and proof of address for everything from ration cards to electricity connections and bank accounts. How, then, are they coping in modern India? Find out.

Full story, Page 13



PROMINENT WINNERS / LOSERS

TARAPUR
Won by a margin of 45,483 votes
SAMRAT CHOUDHARY (BJP)

MOKAMA
Won by a margin of 28,206 votes
ANANT KUMAR SINGH (JDU)

RAGHOPUR
Won by a margin of 14,532 votes
TEJASHWI YADAV (RJD)

CHAPRA
Lost by a margin of 7,600 votes
KHESARI LAL YADAV (RJD)

KUTUMBA
Lost by a margin of 21,525 votes
RAJESH RAM (Congress)

Nitish, *naari* power NDA landslide in Bihar

JD(U)-BJP combine storms back to power with 4/5th majority; Oppn routed

SUMIT PANDE & ABHAY KUMAR
NEW DELHI/PATNA, DHNS

Reposing their undiminished trust in Nitish Kumar, fifth time in a row since 2005, the people of Bihar, especially its women who came out in large numbers to vote, handed a mammoth four-fifth majority to the NDA, in an election that re-established JD(U)'s preeminent position in the state politics, making it a natural claimant for the chief ministership.

For the BJP too, the results of the Friday counting for 243 seats in the state Assembly are a watershed moment in its long-drawn effort to find parity with JD(U), which bagged 85 seats, in Bihar. Registering its best-ever performance, the saffron outfit emerged for the first time as the single largest party in the state Assembly, to end the day with 89 seats with an almost 90% strike rate. Only the 12 of the 101 candidates it fielded lost their election.

The Bihar bonanza gives Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leading a coalition government at the Centre, more leeway in dealing with his allies and opponents.

"The people of Bihar have voted on the basis of our track record," Modi posted on X, endorsing Nitish Kumar's leadership even as he congratulated all NDA allies for the stellar performance in an election where alliance partners ensured seamless transfer of votes between one another.

"With support from you all (allies) Bihar will emerge as one of the most developed states in the country," Nitish reciprocated in a social media post.

The Friday frenzy in Patna is the closest NDA has come to its record-breaking 2010 performance when the BJP-JD(U) combine romped home with 206 seats.

Such is the intensity of the mandate that, together with minor partners like Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Paswan, Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM and Upendra Kushwaha's RLM, the NDA minus the JD(U) is just shy of the halfway mark.

▸ Nitish, Page 4

BIHAR BALLOT Massive mandate for ruling alliance

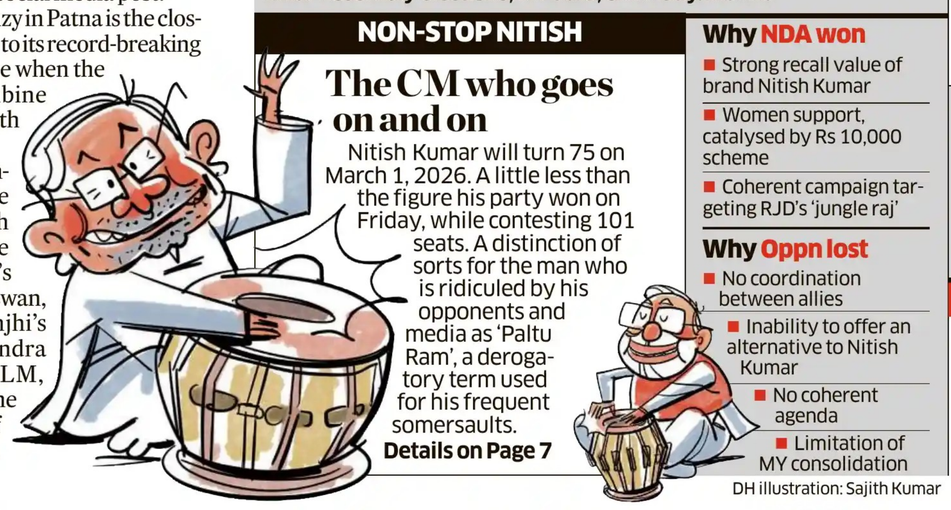
BJP supporters celebrate the ruling NDA's massive victory in the Bihar Assembly elections, in Patna, on Friday. REUTERS

NON-STOP NITISH

The CM who goes on and on

Nitish Kumar will turn 75 on March 1, 2026. A little less than the figure his party won on Friday, while contesting 101 seats. A distinction of sorts for the man who is ridiculed by his opponents and media as 'Paltu Ram', a derogatory term used for his frequent somersaults.

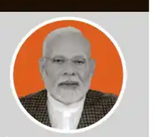
Details on Page 7



DH illustration: Sajith Kumar

Why NDA won
- Strong recall value of brand Nitish Kumar
- Women support, catalysed by Rs 10,000 scheme
- Coherent campaign targeting RJD's 'jungle raj'

Why Oppn lost
- No coordination between allies
- Inability to offer an alternative to Nitish Kumar
- No coherent agenda
- Limitation of MY consolidation

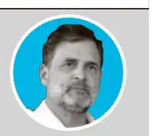


"Bihar has shown again that lies are defeated and people's trust wins...The people of Bihar, with this massive victory and their unshakable confidence, have taken the state by storm

NARENDRA MODI, PM

People of the state have expressed their confidence in our government by giving us a landslide mandate in the polls. For this, I bow to all the esteemed voters of the state

NITISH KUMAR, JD(U) chief



This result in Bihar is truly surprising. We could not achieve victory in an election that was not fair from the very beginning...

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress

INSIDE

Bigsweep: In Bihar, a vote for continuity P8
Bihar done, Owaisi plans Uttar Pradesh outreach P7
Testing times ahead for RJD after poll drubbing P6

Oppn cries 'vote chori' but problems elsewhere

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Routed in Bihar, the Opposition is blaming 'vote chori' but the root of the debacle may lie in an incoherent campaign, discord in I.N.D.I.A alliance, one-upmanship by the RJD and an inability to design a narrative against Nitish Kumar and a credible alternative to him.

While the Bihar drubbing will further trouble the I.N.D.I.A bloc, more poll tension is likely to flare up soon, with the Congress, Left and Trinamool Congress all set to fight against each other in Kerala and West Bengal.

Any joint action will have to wait at least till May next year.

While senior Opposition leaders from Mallikarjun Kharge and Jairam Ramesh to Dipankar Bhattacharya are blaming 'vote chori' on a "gigantic scale masterminded by the PM, the HM, and the Election Commission", the Opposition partners can find solace that their vote share has not deviated massively, like the number of seats its opponents garnered, compared to five years ago.

On the face of it, the I.N.D.I.A bloc could not add any caste or community to its side while the opponents consolidated their grip over its traditional vote bank, be it caste or groups like women and youth.

Also, it will have to think about why people did not buy their campaign themes on jobs and social security.

The Opposition is likely to bring in the contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which saw deletion of around 68 lakh voters from the previous rolls and subsequent addition of around 26 lakh voters, as the sole reason for the outcome, but it would find it difficult to convince voters.

▸ Oppn, Page 4

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On 15th November, 10AM at Ekya School NICE Road

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Honourable Minister of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Govt of Karnataka

Dr. Yellappa Reddy
Former Secretary, Dept of Ecology, Environment and Forests, Govt of Karnataka, Member, Karnataka High Court, Lok Adalat, Renowned Environmentalist

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DECLINE OF AN AVIAN HAVEN

Protecting Bengaluru's THREATENED BIRDS

Rapid urbanisation and habitat alteration have reduced Bengaluru's bird diversity, favouring generalist species while specialists decline sharply

SESHADRI K S

Painted Stork

Pied Kingfisher seen in Hesaraghatta

Indian Grey Hornbill, a native bird seen in Bengaluru

European Roller seen in Hesaraghatta grasslands.

Rosy Starling, a migratory bird, feeding on fruits inside the St Joseph's College campus.
PHOTOS COURTESY: SESHADRI K S

Not too long ago, Bengalureans woke up to the chirping of sparrows or the plaintive call of the koel. Today, the honking of vehicles has replaced it. The city's rapid growth has taken a toll on biodiversity, particularly on birds.

Birds have always called our city home, especially in the early 80s and 90s, when the city was still known as a pensioners' paradise. *The Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Bangalore*, compiled in 1994, documents the presence of nearly 340 species within a 50 km radius of the city.

The list compiled by the Birdwatchers' Field Club of Bangalore included species such as the Barred Jungle Owlet (*Glaucidium radiatum*), reported from areas including Rajajinagar in 1979 and Doresanipalya in 1986. Today, this species is likely found only in patches of forest in Bannerghatta National Park or in other wooded areas on the fringes of the city.

The Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indicus*), which was presumed extinct since 1911, was surprisingly resighted in 2012, at Hesaraghatta and has never been sighted since.

The Malabar Whistling Thrush (Myophonus horsfieldii), regularly seen in the Nandi hills, was observed on the GKVK campus in early 1996 and has recently appeared on the IISc campus.

Researchers from Azim Premji University and the Nature Conservation Foundation used eBird data and examined the frequency of bird reports across the city. Using a subset of 67 aquatic species over five years, they found a drastic decline in reports of migratory birds and an increase in the number of resident birds. Species such as the Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), which were common in wetlands like Hebbal around 2010, declined sharply, while resident birds, such as Painted storks (*Mycteria leucocephala*), increased.

These are just examples of how Bengaluru's ecology changed during development. The biodiversity in the garden city's natural areas is now either pushed out or has vanished.

However, birds have also tried to adapt to Bengaluru. The landscape, once largely open, has transitioned to densely planted areas, gardens, parks, and institutional campuses. New layouts that emerged across the city included home gardens, which continued to support bird life. The birdlife in the city has therefore persisted in the sea of buildings.

City's toxic soup bowls

Platforms such as eBird, which collate data from birdwatchers, show there are 391 bird species in Bengaluru. Over the last year, 305 of those have been sighted. In a 2021 study, researchers examined how the waterbird population varied across the city. Larger wetlands supported larger populations, also because they offered better resources for food or refuge. But these were far from the city centre. What happened to the ones inside the city is a sad story.

Historically, wetlands would retain water during rain. But many wetlands within the city limits have been shrunk, built over, or converted into treated sewage storage pits, which we call lakes. In a quest to develop blue-green infrastructure, the city administrators resort to deepening the wetland, raising the bund, creating a walking track around it, and pitching the embankments with stones.

A soup-bowl design significantly changes the natural structure of a wetland. Pintail ducks would occupy the deeper water, while wading birds—such as sandpipers and stilts—would forage along the shallow edges. This cannot happen with a soup bowl design. The increase in resident species, such as painted storks, is primarily due to habitat modification. By removing areas essential to other birds and introducing fish stocks, the conditions start to favour only certain species.

The vegetation around the wetlands is also extensively modified through the planting of exotic trees or the creation of dense "Miyawaki" forests—mostly a homogenised population of trees in place of multi-layered vegetation, such as grass, herbs, shrubs, and trees. This removes specific nesting places and food sources for some birds. Even in parks, we see only trees and not many shrubs or bushes.

When heat kills habitats

Cities are getting hotter. Heat extremes are particularly severe in densely built-up areas, where buildings retain heat, raising surface temperatures. Heat extremes are uncomfortable not just for humans but also for birds. Temperatures in and around the wetlands and parks are much cooler than in areas closer to buildings.

Earlier this year, researchers from the Indian Institute of Human Settlements used eight years of eBird data to examine how urban heat may be shaping the distribution of birds. They used data on 19 bird species and found that, in general, hotter parts of the city were likely to have fewer species.

Much of the variation in the associations they observed is attributed to the habitats these birds use and their dependence on resources such as tree holes and open areas.

"The landscape design in urban areas is repetitive," explains avid birdwatcher Prashanth M B. "As a consequence, the bird composition will be dominated by generalist species, and specialists will decline."

He feels cumulative species lists are poor indicators of diversity. Citizen-sourced data has limitations because some areas are visited more often than others.

The continued absence of a robust monitoring framework is a missed opportunity for Bengaluru. While interest in birdwatching has certainly grown over the years, birdwatchers now need to travel farther from the city. Most areas of the city are gentrified, and there are rarely any birds.

Ironically, researchers rely on data gathered by birdwatchers. The birdwatching community in Bengaluru is an essential watchdog and whistleblower of the damage done to natural habitats in and around the city.

Many collective efforts by birdwatchers have protected natural areas and stopped habitat destruction. Some birdwatchers have also started initiatives to install nest boxes in green spaces and to advocate for the restoration of wetlands with ecological sensibility.

Policy paralysis is yet another issue. The city still follows an outdated master plan from 2015. While some progressive steps, such as the establishment of the Bengaluru Climate Action Cell, have been taken, much remains to be done to make the laws dynamic and relevant to the city's current needs.

Biodiversity must be included in our regional master plans, and laws must be amended to ensure that the last remaining green and blue spaces are managed with ecological sense rather than an infrastructure lens. This would go a long way toward ensuring good habitats for birds and other wildlife.

(The author is an ecologist and faculty member at ATREE)

Feeding pigeons en masse is a ritual in many parts of Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

The pigeon conundrum

While changes in bird species composition across the city are subtle, one ubiquitous change is the spike in pigeon population. The issue existed even in 1994. *In The Annotated Checklist of Birds of Bangalore*, published at the time, researchers Subramanya S and Krishna M B attributed the rise in pigeon populations in Bengaluru to the city's vertical growth.

However, pigeons annoy many people due to their droppings and adaptation to human habitations. Recently, an elected representative wrote to the chief of the Greater Bengaluru Authority, requesting a ban on feeding pigeons due to the spread of respiratory diseases. He is not alone: the internet is full of fear-mongering videos about pigeons. What is the truth behind this?

"Yes, pigeons can indeed spread diseases; However, it's the immunocompromised people who are at most risk from Cryptococcus and Histoplasma," said Dr Umesh Srinivasan, Faculty at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. "Both are fungal and can survive as spores for very long, so there is a risk," he added.

A doctor and ecologist, Srinivasan highlighted that ecological urbanisation has altered bird compositions, and an increase in pigeon populations is unlikely to impact diversity.

However, banning the feeding of pigeons may only be a knee-jerk reaction. In the past, courts have banned feeding pigeons in Mumbai, but such efforts have made little dent in pigeon numbers. In many parts of India, it is a tradition to feed pigeons with grains and water. This may have led to spikes in pigeon numbers.

While feeding itself may not be problematic, its consequences can pose a public health hazard, especially when there is evidence of disease-causing fungi growing in the droppings and on fallen feathers.

Active prevention of exposure to pigeon droppings, wearing masks, and spraying water on the droppings before cleaning them from balconies are among the best practices to avoid the risk of infection from pigeons. Other possible measures include reducing open water sources, using building materials and structures, such as sloped ledges, that minimise perching opportunities and using motion-activated sprinklers or ultrasonic devices.

Feedback:
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Hotel guard hacked to death

BENGALURU, DHNS: Armed assailants fatally attacked a hotel security guard in Bidadi on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday night, officials said. According to police, six to seven assailants armed with knives confronted Nishant, who was asleep at Hotel Kadamba near Bidadi. The assailants then fled with the CCTV recorder. Bidadi police visited a spot and launched a probe.

Corrigendum

BENGALURU, DHNS: In the issue dated November 14, 2025, we published the wrong date for the play 'Journey from A to E'. The play, written by Rumi Harish and directed by James Brunner, will be staged at the Mazumdar-Shaw Auditorium, MAP, Kasturba Road, on November 15, 5 pm onwards. Entry is free. For details, visit map-india.org. The error is regretted.

Citizens launch campaign protesting felling of 900 trees at GKVK

BENGALURU, DHNS

The informal group consisting of farmers, environmentalists, students and local residents at a press conference in Bengaluru on Friday.

Environmentalists, farmers, students and citizens gathered at the Press Club of Bangalore on Friday to launch 'SaveGKVKCampus', a public campaign calling attention to the proposed felling of over 900 trees on the lush campus of Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK). The campaign has been launched in protest of the proposed establishment of an international flower auction market at the University of Horticultural Sciences' sub-campus at GKVK, which requires the clearance of about five acres of green cover.

"Informally, a bunch of us have been working on putting a halt to this project. For the past two months, the management had been very quiet about this project. But recently, there has been some movement, with officials visiting the site and holding meetings on tree transplantation, so we have formally decided to come forward and launch the campaign," said Vijay Nishanth, urban conservationist and tree doctor.

Among the 900-odd trees are species of cashew, mango, coconut, pomelo, jackfruit, mahogany and silver oak.

"There are also germplasms of several endangered species that need to be preserved. People struggled for 15-20 years to nurture and grow these trees. They plan to transplant these trees to a new location. But there is less than a 50% chance that these species will survive the transplantation process. Plus, if they already have spare five acres of land where they plan to transplant these trees, why can't they just build the flower market there?" said Alfiya A, a research scholar at GKVK. She also added that the proposed market would pose a risk to students on campus, especially female students. "The land chosen is close to the girls' hostel, so it can pose a safety risk, as there will be constant movement of people. Plus, it will impact the peaceful environment of the campus, which serves as a green lung to north Bengaluru," she added.

The five acres are part of the 150 acres allotted to the sub-campus of the UHS. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) mandates a minimum of 150 acres for a College of Horticulture to retain its accreditation. The proposed project would reduce the effective land area and could lead to withdrawal of ICAR recognition, affecting students' degrees and future placements, Nishanth said.

The group plans to sign a petition soon and present it to the ministers concerned, local authorities and GKVK officials. The group urges concerned authorities to explore alternative locations for the flower market outside the GKVK campus.

Cybercriminals impersonate Morgan Stanley execs, cheat B'luru man of Rs 1.02 cr

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cybercriminals impersonated an American multinational and cheated a Bengaluru resident of Rs 1.02 crore.

The suspects had told the 33-year-old victim, Pavan K (name changed), from Balaji Layout, that they were high-ranking officials from Morgan Stanley, the global investment bank and financial services company. Pavan thought his investment was multiplying for more than two months before he realised it was a con.

He first received a message on Facebook from an unknown account on August 28 about investing in stocks. Pavan was then added to a WhatsApp group and was subsequently asked to download an app from a fake website (http://www.morganstanleyaiindia.com/app.apk). The app, too, was a fake.

"There were three admins of the WhatsApp group. They claimed to be the CEO and senior HR executives of Morgan Stanley's Asia Pacific division. Subsequently, screenshots of gains and results of the trades suggested by them were shared in the group, leading me to trust them," Pavan told the police in his complaint.

Convinced, Pavan began transferring money to the scamsters. The balance was reflected in the fake, manipulated app, which showed that he was gaining on his trades. Till November 4, in multiple transactions, Pavan transferred Rs 1,02,05,923.

On November 4, Pavan tried to withdraw some of the gains but was "locked out of the application". Realising he had been cheated, he approached the police and an FIR was registered on November 8 at the Southeast Cybercrime Police Station. A probe is underway.

Elderly man loses Rs 16 lakh

In a similar case, a 72-year-old man lost Rs 16.18 lakh after believing that he was investing in OTC (over-the-counter) stocks and Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). The victim from Akshaya Nagar, off Bannerghatta Road, was added to a WhatsApp group 'VEDIC Whisper 433' where details on so-called investments were shared.

Believing them, he sent the large sum in multiple transactions over two months. He filed a complaint on November 13 with the Southeast CEN police after realising he had been cheated, as he hadn't received his money back.

Govt's proposal to merge schools draws flak from stakeholders

Indication of primary education system's collapse, says HDK

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's decision to merge some government schools with those tagged 'Magnet' schools, and subsequently transform the institution into a Karnataka Public School (KPS) has drawn flak from stakeholders and political leaders, including Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy.

Although Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa had announced that the government would not shut a single school, setting up a KPS in each Gram Panchayat would necessitate merging five to six schools, which could potentially result in their closure.

Training his guns on the government, Kumaraswamy wrote on 'X': "This is an indication of how the primary education system has collapsed in the state. The Congress government has failed to develop infrastructure at schools, and provide uniforms and textbooks to students. Now it has found a way to merge schools and upgrade them into KPS."

Kumaraswamy further claimed that the government had decided to close 25,000 government schools where enrolment was 10-50% of the sanctioned student strength.

In a statement released to the media on the subject, People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (PAFRE) claimed that the state government was seeking to implement the National Education Policy through the 'backdoor'. "We condemn the state government's decision to shut 25,682 schools where admissions are low, and merge them with 700 KPS, identified as 'Magnet' schools," read the statement.

PAFRE went on to remind Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about his commitment to set up 500 KPS using funds provided by the Asian Development Bank. "He never spoke about merging schools with poor enrolment. It's unfortunate that the Congress, which opposed the BJP government's attempts to merge schools, is now doing the same," PAFRE's statement read.

Opposition to the move notwithstanding, the government has issued an order to merge seven government schools in Channapatna in Bengaluru South district. The schools will be merged with the KPS developed by Kanva Foundation. While one of the schools slated for closure boasts a student strength of two, the others have 100, 80, 82, 77, 31 and 20 students respectively.

Free textbooks for students at govt PU colleges from next year

1,319 state-run PU colleges have 2.74 lakh students

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to arrest the downward spiral in enrolment at state-run pre-university (PU) colleges, the Karnataka government has decided to distribute textbooks to students at these colleges free of cost starting next academic year. Currently, students from classes one to ten at government and government-aided schools are given free textbooks.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa told *DH*, "We have decided to distribute textbooks freely even to PU students from the 2026-27 academic year."

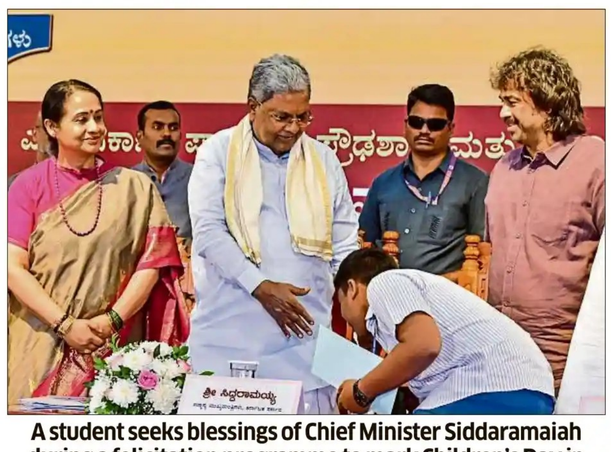
Data sourced from the Department of Pre-University Education shows that the 1,319 government PU colleges cumulatively boast a student strength of 2,74,423, while 1.19 lakh students are enrolled in 815 government-aided colleges. The department offers 34 courses in the sciences, arts and commerce.

Officials in the PU Department are confident that distribution of free textbooks will not strain the government's finances.

Midday Meal for PU colleges?

Stakeholders, including teachers, are of the opinion that implementing the Midday Meal scheme at PU colleges could help drive enrolment at the state-run institutions. President of the Karnataka State Pre-University College Lecturers' Association A H Ninge Gowda said, "Students appear not to have much trouble in procuring textbooks, since they can get it from their seniors who are passing out. But providing meals at the college would greatly help students, given the amount of time spent there."

Incidentally, the minister was asked the same question at an interactive event with students held to mark Children's Day on Friday. "We are serving midday meals at all the Karnataka Public Schools where we have classes from LKG to second PU. I will discuss the possibility of serving midday meals at other government PU colleges with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Implementation of the scheme will require allocation of funds in the budget."



A student seeks blessings of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during a felicitation programme to mark Children's Day in Bengaluru on Friday. Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh are seen.

DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

However, teachers pointed out that the proximity of nearly 1,000 PU colleges to government schools meant that it could be easily implemented. However, the PU Department would require Rs 200 crore a year to implement it.

Siddaramaiah, meanwhile, expressed disappointment over the depiction of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in an unflattering light. Participating in an event held to mark the first PM's birth anniversary, Siddaramaiah said, "Those speaking ill of Nehru are doing so for political reasons."

The CM also questioned the obsession among parents to admit their children to English-medium schools. Citing his own example, he said, "I am a live example of what a student who went to a Kannada-medium government school can achieve. I have become the CM."

Meanwhile, the first mega parent-teacher meeting organised at all the government schools and colleges on Friday started on a successful note with enthusiastic parents turning up in large numbers. The parents were only too happy to interact with teachers and learn about their children's progress at schools.

The parents were also served the midday meal at the schools. Buoyed by the response, the department is contemplating organising the event once every six or three months.

KSRTC selection list published

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has released a second selection list for 22 candidates for driver-operator posts.

The list has been published on the notice board of the corporation's central office in Shanthiangar, and on its official website ksrtcjobs.karnataka.gov.in, a release said.

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Work Location : Across Karnataka
Experience : 4+ years of experience in sales and possess excellent interpersonal skills.
Skills : Sales or Circulation of newspapers.
Qualification : Minimum PUC/12th
Job Purpose :

- Achieve circulation target, promote and monitor publication in the assigned region.
- Formulate and implement various market strategies.
- Distributes and explains circulation instructions and changes to distributors and dealers.
- Managing escalations.
- Early morning reporting on field is mandatory.
- Two-wheeler is mandatory.

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Metro Railway, Kolkata

Corrigendum-1 Against open Tender Notice No.S&T/Works/23-2025

Name of Work : Comprehensive annual maintenance contract for two years for CCTV & ACS system in Phase I stns of Green Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Items Header : Field Name : Tender Closing Date & Time. Existing Date : 17.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. **Modified Date : 24.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs.** For details visit : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele

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PFRDA invites applications from eligible Indian Citizens for appointment as Trustee on the Board of National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust). The appointment will be for a term of three years, extendable by upto two additional years.

For detailed information, please visit www.pfrda.org.in

Application due date: 15th December 2025.

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F. No.- A-12039/02/2025-Estt.III
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Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology

ADVT. No. DST/06/2025 - Estt.III

Applications are invited for filling up the '03' (Three) posts of Scientists [Scientist 'C' - '02' (Two) posts & Scientist 'D' - '01' (One) post], in the Department of Science & Technology on direct recruitment basis. For the application process and other general conditions and requirements, the detailed advertisement may kindly be perused by visiting the Recruitment Cell webpage under the Administration & Finance section of our website: **www.dst.gov.in**. Any addendum/corrigendum or any further updates regarding the application process & selection process shall be communicated only through this Department's website (www.dst.gov.in). Candidates are therefore, advised to visit the website regularly.

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

CBC 36101/11/0011/2526

S. E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2025/41, Dated: 14.11.2025. Tender for "E" Procurement System. The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed **at 14.00 hrs.**

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Due Date	Brief Description	Quantity	EMD amount (₹)
1	40253105	02.12.2025	Copper cable, 95 sq mm, Single core stranded annealed tin coated E-beam irradiated cross linked polyolefin insulated cable suitable for 1.8/3 KV grade etc.	17100 Mtr.	4,94,760
2	38253910	28.11.2025	Upgraded High Capacity Draft Gear for BOXNHL Wagon etc.	5100 nos.	20,00,000
3	38254078B	08.12.2025	Modified Elastomeric Pad Design-B, etc.	13400 nos.	7,98,820
4	33255023	15.12.2025	Radiator assemblies for DA Sets of Power cars	04 nos.	1,32,800
5	29254848C	21.11.2025	Silicon Impregnating Resin Silres H62C 1523	1523 kg.	1,17,820
6	29255104A	24.11.2025	Complete Rotor using Zirconium Copper Punched Design Resistance Ring etc.	10 nos.	1,53,400
7	25251273	01.12.2025	Intermediate Overhauling (IOH) Replacement kit etc.	209 set	2,97,180
8	25253736	01.12.2025	Compensating Beam Modified of WAG7 Loco etc.	159 nos.	1,38,460
9	29255029C	10.12.2025	Oil Cooler Radiator for Converter/Transformer etc.	86 nos.	8,24,620
10	29251318A	10.12.2025	Oil cooler Radiator for converter	73 nos.	6,54,660
11	50255015	10.12.2025	Running Contract for Supply of 48 OFC etc.	340 Km.	4,03,600
12	33253458A	23.12.2025	Brake Caliper Unit Right Version etc.	48 nos.	1,94,200
13	30253087A	17.12.2025	Supporting Device of CBC fitted with coa	449 nos.	1,90,620
14	33253012A	12.12.2025	Ball Joint Traction Lever	6140 nos.	1,27,080
15	33253463A	29.12.2025	Brake Caliper Unit Left Version etc.	44 nos.	1,78,540

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-840)**

PROVISION OF DOUBLE DISTANT SIGNAL

E-Tender No. SNT-21-LMG-2025-26-RT-1; Dated: 12-11-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Name of work & its Location:** Provision of Double distant signal at 13 stations in Thekeraguri-Lumding section of Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹7,28,38,944.36; **Bid Security:** ₹5,14,200.00; E-tender will be **Closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 05-12-2025 and **Opened** at 15:30 hrs. on 05-12-2025. For details visit: **www.ireps.gov.in**.

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Tender Notice No.: SBC-Tripshd IOH4thflrDrm Dt. 07.11.2025

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Name of work	Approx. Value
Provision of S&T	Rs. 58,58,736.78

arrangements at Satellite Goods Terminal (SGT) for construction of New IOH shed with EOT over Bengaluru Division, provision of Telecom arrangement for construction of new pit line and renovation of existing pitline in AC LOCO Trip Shed at Satellite Goods Terminal (SGT) Station & Provision of Telecom arrangement for proposed modification of control rooms of TPC/TRD and server room of TPC & EEM/TRD at Fourth floor of DRM / Bengaluru building.

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 12:00 Hrs. on 29.11.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Bengaluru

PUB/639/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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SOLAPUR DIVISION
ENGINEERING WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No. 14-2025-SrDENCo, Name of Work -** Annual Sectional Contract for Zone 'B' for Kurduwadi (BG) Sub division Daund(Excl) to Kurduwadi (Incl) including Kurduwadi Workshop Dhavalas, Bhalwani, Poplaj, Washimbe, Parewadi, Jinti, Malthan, Boribel, Bhigwan, Kettur, Jeur, Kem etc. in service building, office building & Staff qtrs (Year:2026-27, 2027-28 2028-29, 2029-30). Annual Sectional Contract for Zone 'C' ADEN/W/SUR sub division Kurduwadi(Excl) to Dudhani (Incl) Wadsinge, Madha, Angar, Wakav, Malikpeth, Mohol, Bale, Akkolkot road, Pakni, Titlati, Hotgi etc in service building, office building & Staff qtrs.(Year:2026-27, 2027-28 2028-29, 2029-30). Annual Sectional Contract for Zone 'D' ADEN/KLBG sub division Dudhani (Excl) to Wadi (Incl) Shahabad, Martur, Hireananduru, Kalaburagi, Bablad, Kulali, Tajsultanpur etc in service building, office building & Staff qtrs.(Year:2026-27, 2027-28 2028-29, 2029-30). Annual Sectional Contract for Zone 'E' ADEN/LUR sub division Kurduwadi (Excl) to Latur Road(Excl) Shendri, Kalamrood, Harangul, Dhoky, Yedeshi, Dharashiv, Barshi Town, Pangari, Latur etc in service building, office building & Staff qtrs. (Year:2026-27, 2027-28 2028-29, 2029-30). Annual Sectional Contract for Zone 'F' ADEN/PVR sub division Kurduwadi(Excl) to Miraj (Excl) Pandharpur, Modlimb, Sangola, Jath road, Dhalgaon, Salgare, Kauthemahakal, Arag etc. in service building, office building & Staff qtrs. (Year:2026-27, 2027-28 2028-29, 2029-30). **Approximate Cost of the work** - Rs. 360004805.20/-, **Earnest Money** - Rs. 1950000.00/-, **Completion period of the work** - 48 Months, **Maintenance Period** - 06 Months. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website** - 14-2025-SrDENCo - 08/12/2025 upto 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in** - 14-2025-SrDENCo -08/12/2025 at 15:30 hrs. **The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisonal Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur
SUN 87

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Jharkhand State Beverage Corporation Limited, Ranchi

(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
Corporate ID No. U51228JH2010SGC014519,
TIN No - 20520108277, GST No- 20AACCJ5622N1ZO
Utpad Bhawan, Ground Floor, Near Naveen Police Kendra, Kanke Road, Ranchi
E-mail :- jsbcl.jharkhand@gmail.com

E-T. No-JSBCL/Esst.-05/2012- 06

Ranchi, Dated :- 14-11-2025

-Tender Notice-

E-Tender for Empanelment of Security Guard & MTS

S.N.	Particulars	Date	Time
01	Date of Uploading of tender document on website.	17-11-2025	11:00 A.M.
02	Date of Pre Bid	21-11-2025	04:00 P.M.
03	Starting Date for Submission of E-Tender	18-11-2025	11:00 A.M.
04	Last Date/closing date for submission of E-Tender	08-12-2025	04:00 P.M.
05	Last date for Submission of Document (Hard Copy) in the JSBCL Office	09-12-2025	05:00 P.M.
06	Online opening of Technical Bid.	10-12-2025	04:00 P.M.

Tender Document can be downloaded from https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and https://jsbcl.in Tender downloaded should be submitted with tender cost of Rs. 1,000/- (In words: - One Thousand only) in Online mode through Jharkhand eProcurement portal.

Name & Address of Tenderer:
Sd/-
General Manager (Operation)
Jharkhand State Beverages Corporation Limited
Utpad Bhawan, Ground Floor, Near Naveen Police Kendra
Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008.

PR 366091 Excise(25-26).D

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender No. : SNT-30-LMG-2025-26; Dated: 12-11-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Name of work :** Augmentation of Installed Automatic Fire Alarm and Detection System of make Ravel, Honeywell & Notofire of Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹3,03,66,399.73/-, **Bid Security:** ₹3,01,800/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hours and **opening** at **15:30** hours on **05-12-2025**. Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DSTE, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work before **15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against item and will be opened at **15.30 hrs. Tender No.: T-PUB-GRC-2025-419, Date: 13.11.2025. Description of work:** Outsourcing of Environment-Conscious Integrated Cleaning of offices, Colony Sanitation, Waste Management and Eco-Support Services Including Biogas, maintenance operation of Sluice valve and Compost plant in North Colony of South Eastern Railway, Headquarters, Garden Reach for a period of two (02) years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 12,13,86,831.56. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 7,56,900 (MSE firms are entitled to claim exemption from payment of Earnest Money). **Cost of Tender documents:** ₹ 0. **Date of opening:** 05.12.2025. **Completion Period of the work:** 24 (twentyfour) months. Any change in tender schedule, corrigendum, amendment, if any shall be available on the E-tender portal only and same will not be publish in the newspaper. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for this work will be accepted. **Note:** Prospective bidders may regular visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. Help Desk contact no. 033-2450-3783. **(PR-838)**

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION
ENGINEERING WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works.

Tender Notice No. 40-2025-SrDENC

Name of Work - 1-Construction of PWI office & store and Augmentation of ADEN/BG/KWV and IOW/KWV/BG office & store under ADEN/BG/KWV sub-division. 2-Construction of new PWI office depot with store facilities at BGVN under ADEN/BG/KWV Subdivision. **Approximate Cost of the work** - Rs. 57029514.72/-, **Earnest Money** - Rs. 435200.00/-, **Completion period of the work** - 12 Months, **Maintenance Period** - 24 Months.

Tender Notice No. 41-2025-SrDENC

Name of Work - Construction of service rooms for Latur coaching complex. **Approximate Cost of the work** - Rs. 14300975.16/-, **Earnest Money** - Rs. 221500.00/-, **Completion period of the work** - 12 Months, **Maintenance Period** - 24 Months.

Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website - 05/12/2025 upto 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in** - 05/12/2025 at 15:30 hrs. **The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisonal Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur
SUN 90

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender of the following worksare invited for the President of India: **[A] Sl. No.: [01].Tender No.: Engg-55-2025-26. Name of the work:** 1. Extension of Track-2 of Bay-1 up to new test shed in shop 19 & Provision of additional rain test facility with connecting track near new VPI plant in workshop at CLW/ Chittaranjan, 2. Construction of ladies common room and toilets at TM Shop, ELA, LMS, HMS, ELF, ERS, TPT, CPH etc. and other locations within workshop at CLW, Chittaranjan. **Advertised Tender Value (Rupees) :** ₹ 2,23,67,260.86. **Bid Security Amount (Rupees) :** ₹ 2,61,800.00. **Period of Completion :** 06 (Six) months. **Date of Closing:** 28.11.2025. **Note : 1.** Complete details can be seen in the Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** & **www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in. 2. Contact Numbers - 9163340201 & 9163340204. [B] Sl. No.: [01].Tender No.: Engg-56-2025-26.Name of the work:** Upgradation of Blood Bank at K.G.Hospital in CLW, Chittaranjan. **Advertised Tender Value (Rupees) :** ₹ 1,78,78,244.47. **Bid Security Amount (Rupees) :** ₹ 2,39,400.00. **Period of Completion :** 04 (Four) months. **Date of Closing:** 03.12.2025. **Note : 1.** Complete details can be seen in the Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** & **www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in. 2. Contact Numbers – 9163340201 & 9163340204.**

PR5/245 **Deputy Chief Engineer/CLW/ Chittaranjan**

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CENTRAL RAILWAY

Electrical Department
ELECTRICAL WORK
E-Tender Notice

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No**.: SUR/L/T/2024/30R2 **Name of Work** :- Electrical General service portion of work in connection with upgradation of wadi yard to A class freight examination yard. **Estimated cost** :- ₹ 1,11,77,433.48/-, **Bid Security** :- ₹ 2,08,900/- **Completion Period** :- 12 months, **Validity of offer** :- 60 Days, **Date & time of tender closing on website** :- 08/12/2025 at 15:00 hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on www.ireps.gov.in website.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General)
SUN 89

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SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS S&T WORKS

Tender no. -752 - EI - SRBA - MWRN. Date: 11.11.2025.

Name of Work: : S&T cable clearance in the yard to facilitate the engineering earthwork, yard remodeling work and Modification/ Alteration in Distributed Electronic Interlocking (M/s Hitachi STS (formerly known as Ansaldo STS) make) at Madwarani station and new Centralized Electronic Interlocking at Saragbundia and Auto signaling work (EI based) in connection with 3rd & 4th line work between SRBA-MWRN in CPH-GAD section in Bilaspur Division of SEC Railway

Tender Value : ₹ 22,53,72,339/- (Rs. Twenty Two Crore Fifty Three Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Nine Only). **EMD : ₹ 12,76,900/-** (Twelve Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Only). **Closing of Tender: up to 15:00 Hrs. on 04.12.2025.**

For further details/eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the **CSTE(Con) SEC Rly. BILASPUR** or refer/download tender document which is available on our website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Engg./Con.
CPR/10/455 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur

South East Central Railway @secrail

EASTERN RAILWAY

No. EC/T/Fire Detection/OT-24/25-26, Dated: 10.11.2025. Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway Workshop, Kanchrapara, Carriage / Loco Complex, North 24 Parganas, Po. Kanchrapara, Pin. 743145, West Bengal invites e-tender for the following work: **e-Tender No: EC_T_FDSS_OT-24_25-26. Name of work & its location:** Work for complete provisioning i.e design, supply, installation, commissioning, performance testing and maintenance of improved automatic fire detection and automatic suppression system for total 24 nos. 1400 HP Non-CNG DEMU DPCs under Dy.CEE(W)/ Kanchrapara Organization, Kanchrapara Workshop, Eastern Railway on Open Tender Basis. **Approx. Cost of the work:** Rs. 98,64,620.64 including GST. **Earnest Money to be Deposited:** Rs.1,97,300/- **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. **Completion period of the work:** 12 months. **Website from where tender documents will be available:** The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** from 10.11.2025 to 03.12.2025 till 15.00 hrs. **Advertisement period :** 10.11.2025 to 03.12.2025 till 15.00 hrs. **Offer submission period:** 19.11.2025 to 03.12.2025 till 15.00 hrs. **Date and time of closing of tender:** 03.12.2025 till 15.00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender:** 03.12.2025 till 15.30 hrs.

MISC-283/2025-26

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to enter into certain transactions with respect to below described two items of '**Schedule Property**', with its Owner "**The Standard Brick and Tile Company (Yelahanka) Private Limited**" (popularly known as Standard Brick and Tile Factory), having its registered office in RMZ Galleria, Office Block, Ground Floor, B.B. Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 ("**Owner**"). The Owner represents that it is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and the same are free from all encumbrances, mortgage, charge, lien or litigation and it has not entered into any sort of agreement/MOU/Deeds etc., for transfer of the Schedule Property. Any person/s having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest, pending litigation with respect to the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, mou, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demand or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owner shall lodge their claim(s)/ objection(s)/demand(s) with the undersigned supported by documentary evidence within **Seven (07) days** from the date of publication of this Notice failing which, my client shall proceed with the transaction on the basis that there are no claim(s) / objection(s) / demand(s) of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of immoveable property bearing Survey No. **150/4**, situated at **Yelahanka Village**, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District measuring **11,979 square feet (or 11 guntas)** and bounded on the:**East by:**Road;**West by:**Land bearing Sy. No. 152/9 (Item No. 2 property);**North by:**Land bearing Sy. Nos. 150/2 & 151;**South by:**Remaining portion of Sy. No. 150/4.

Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of immoveable property bearing Survey No. **152/9**, situated at **Yelahanka Village**, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District measuring **60,407 square feet (or 1 acre 15 guntas approximately)** and bounded on the:**East by:** Land bearing Sy. Nos. 150/4 (Item No. 1 property) & 150/2;**West by:**Land bearing Sy. Nos. 152/10 & 152/6;**North by:**Land bearing Sy. Nos. 152/11 & 150/1;**South by:**Remaining portion of Sy. No. 152/9.

Vinay K.S. Advocate,
Vinay Kademane & Associates,
307, 3rd Floor, Prestige Centre Point,
No. 7/49, Edward Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Ph: 080-22863885 / 49763233/ vinay@vinaykademane.in

Place:Bengaluru
Date:15/11/2025

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2025-26-14R Date: 13.11.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager / Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai-3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to **www.ireps.gov.in**

S.No	Tender No. / Name of the work	Value (₹)	Closing date / time
1	Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2025-26-14R Conversion of Tramway OHE to conventional OHE on the MLPM (Melpakkam) bypass line in Chennai Division.	1,43,87,168.27	04/12/2025 (15:00hrs)

(Sr.DEE / TRD / MAS)
Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai-3

RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT IN SIGNALLING SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No. KIR-N-2025-K-52 dated: 12-11-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Name of work:** Reliability improvement in signalling system by means of repair, Replacement and Restoration of Kyosan Electronic Interlocking system of Katihar Division. **Tender Value:** ₹7,91,55,810/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 5,45,800/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** At **15.00** hrs. **& opening at 15.30 hrs. on 04-12-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available upto upto **15.00** hrs. of **04-12-2025** in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM/(S&T)/Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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CENTRAL RAILWAY

Electrical Department
ELECTRICAL WORK
E-Tender Notice

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No**.: SUR/TD/T/2025/27 **Name of Work** :- Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with Creation of trip maintenance / advance inspection centers for inspection and maintenance activity of electric locomotives at Hotgi of Solapur Division. **Estimated cost** :- ₹ 43,86,328.43/-, **Bid Security** :- ₹ 87,700/- **Completion Period** :- 12 months, **Validity of offer** :- 60 Days, **Date & time of tender closing on website** :- 05/12/2025 at 15:00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)
SUN 88

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भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana- 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK -6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 (2) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2025-26/1390 **Date:- 04.11.2025**

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of **(54)** companies in the state of **Karnataka** under section 248 (2) of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AB7818885	U72900KA2022PTC165054	AURUMATA SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AB8178027	U51109KA2015PTC081000	SRI JNANAKSHI ENTERPRISES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AB8314407	U64200KA2021PTC151546	AIRFIBER BROADBAND NETWORK PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AB8572219	U93000KA2015PTC082313	TRANSMASS TM BIOMEDICAL SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AB7937716	U62099KA2024PTC193616	SIPLONT SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AB6599411	U80903KA2009PTC050638	I-POINT INTERACTIVE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AB8593419	U58203KA2024PTC187709	FENIXBOT STUDIOS PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AB6979479	U25200KA2024PTC189211	HOMELAND PRECISION PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AB7006788	U62013KA2024FTC196309	CENTRIC SOFTWARE (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AB7036505	U52211KA2025PTC200619	PARKNSECURE PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AB7128619	U62090KA2024PTC190337	DYZEP TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AB7280968	U72200KA2015PTC084422	OPEN APPLIANCES PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AB7435130	U62099KA2024FTC191450	CRUCIFER TECHNOLOGIES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AB7400500	U74999KA2018PTC113982	AISTRINGS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AB8519381	U69201KA2025OPC202473	SARK TAX GLOBAL (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AB7436006	U74999KA2016PTC111088	SUN SUPREME GLASS & ALUMINIUM ACCESSORIES PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AB8522606	U74910KA2020PTC133815	HONEST INFRA AND TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AB8555842	U72500KA2018PTC110661	QUANTUM ADVANCED VISUALSYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AB7469446	U72200KA2019PTC121410	ALATINE NJ TECHSOL PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AB7545020	U58203KA2023PTC179767	ALL IN ONE ONLINE GAMES PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AB8024613	U63121KA2025PTC200448	INNOSAVR LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AB8505774	U10790KA2024PTC190766	SKAVEE FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AB8504307	U41000KA2024PTC195279	SUTRA BUILDCON PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AB7765719	U72900KA2020PTC137857	RCEIL LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AB7968032	U72200KA2014PTC077833	BODHITECH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AB8469179	U80212KA2016PTC086887	EXPLORE BYTE TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AB8493729	U32509KA2023PTC182504	KINETOSOLE MEDICAL SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AB7798630	U52291KA2024PTC188849	S D INTENSE TRIPS PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AB7869235	U74999KA2021PTC155975	SV2 GAIA SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AB7818867	U51900KA2021OPC148398	VAIRAGI IMPEX (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AB8108694	U62013KA2023PTC176195	TECHRAISERS SOFTWARE SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AB7875708	U72500KA2018PTC111729	EVBOOTH.COM PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AB8402430	U73100KA2024PTC192690	PEAKTREE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AB7925048	U74999KA2020PTC138942	BLUEHIVE BUILDTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AB7917619	U47912KA2024PTC190638	VAVA BRANDS PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AB8413507	U62099KA2024PTC183332	UNSQL AI PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AB7973820	U74999KA2021PTC148607	MANZETTI NETWORKS PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AB7996847	U74999KA2022PTC163615	CREMEYL PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AB8016289	U85500KA2024OPC196175	OJUSS HOLISTIC HEALING STUDIO (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AB8029575	U62013KA2023PTC171359	LEAPALPHA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AB8099639	U62099KA2024PTC191204	REWALLLOY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AB8084785	U50402KA2014PTC076584	TRISTAR INDIA TRADING & SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AB8098119	U72900KA2019PTC128502	PROJECT 24 MEDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
44	AB8086406	U74999KA2016PTC093178	NEW WORLD INVENTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AB8176185	U73200KA2017PTC105260	CONVOCOMM SOFTWARE PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AB8321134	U62099KA2024PTC186388	CAREAT SOFTWARE AND SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AB8181404	U74900KA2013PTC071172	ACCUFLEX CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AB8124794	U80902KA2019PTC125750	SWIFTLEARNINGS GLOBAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
49	AB8121242	U51900KA2019PTC129192	WOWTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AB8180804	U72200KA2015PTC082746	MEDKUMO SOFTWARE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
51	AB8204479	U72900KA2022PTC156873	CONETWORKS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AB8262365	U51909KA2006PTC040671	STONE TOOLS AND CHEMICALS PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AB8224247	U55101KA2019PTC121774	AADHYARAGAVI TECH AND HOSPITALITY SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AB8257672	U46909KA2024OPC185976	BODHI GLOBAL MERCHANTS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED

(2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

(3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

(4) Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Raunak Agrawal
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123-11-0456-2526

Nominated Authority Ministry of Coal Government of India

(120, F-Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001. 011-23384106)

"NOTICE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS IN RELATION TO SCHEDULE I COAL MINES"

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9 of The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Rule 15 of The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014, claims are invited from the prior allottees of 62 Coal Mines, mentioned in Schedule-I of CMSP Act. Out of the 204 coal mines, listed in the Schedule-I of Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, 62 coal mines could not be re-allocated till date, and compensation claims from prior allocattees of these 62 coal mines are hereby **invited as last and final opportunity.**

Detailed list of 62 coal mines located in state of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Telangana, West Bengal along with the Notice regarding submission of claims can be downloaded from the website of Ministry of Coal **(https://coal.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-11/11-11-2025a-comp.pdf.)**

Last date and time for submission of claims is 15.12.2025. For any query/clarification kindly contact the Nominated Authority at- Room No. 120, 'F' Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 (Ph: 23384106) Email: nomauthority.moc@nic.in Website: **http://www.coal.nic.in/welcome.html**

CBC 04107/11/0003/2526

सत्यमेव जयते
जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Government of India

150th
Birth Anniversary Year of Bhagwan Birsa Munda
JANJATIYA GAURAV VARSH

SALUTING THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OF DHARTI AABA

A Grateful Nation pays tribute to the valour and vision of Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his 150th Birth Anniversary

On the Occasion of

JANJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS

Dedication to the Nation and Foundation Stone Laying for Several Tribal Development Initiatives worth ₹ 7700 Crore

by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

15TH November, 2025 | 02:00 PM | Dediyapada, Narmada, Gujarat

INAUGURATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

- 1 Lakh Pucca Houses Grih Pravesh Ceremony - Ensuring dignified housing for tribal families
- 10,000 Functional Household Tap Water Connection - Delivering clean drinking water to tribal households
- 228 Multipurpose Centers (MPCs) - Promoting livelihood generation, training and development
- 42 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) - Access to quality education for tribal students
- 01 Centre Of Competence at Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh - Quality healthcare in tribal regions

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF NEW INITIATIVES

- 748 Kms Road Connectivity including 6 km of Bridges - Strengthening connectivity in remote tribal areas
- 190 Ashram School Hostels - Integrating education and nutrition in remote tribal areas
- 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) - Empowering tribal students through education
- 14 Tribal Multi Marketing Centres (TMMCs) - Connecting tribal products to wider markets

11 YEARS OF TRIBAL PROGRESS UNDER PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP

Commitment towards Tribal Welfare:

13,000+ Crore budget of Ministry of Tribal Affairs benefiting 11.5+ Crore tribal people

Forest Right Act:

9.52+ lakh individual and 97,000+ community forest rights titles have been distributed, covering 232 lakh acres

Livelihood & Enterprise:

12+ lakh Tribal Entrepreneurs benefitting through 4030+ Van Dhan Vikas Kendras
87 Minor Forest Produce under MSP

Education:

1.5+ lakh tribal students enrolled in 497 Eklavya Model Residential Schools

30+ lakh tribal students benefitting through 5 scholarship schemes

Transforming Grassroots Governance:

20+ lakh Adi Karmayogi strengthening development of tribal villages through 58,000+ Village Action Plan, and 56,000+ Adi Sewa Kendras

Targeted Flagship Missions:

Under PM-JANMAN Scheme
47+ lakh PVTGs population benefitting through
2.24+ lakh Pucca Houses
7600+ Villages Provided Piped Water Supply
1.32+ lakh Tribal Households Electrified
820+ KM Road Connectivity

Under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan
63,000+ Tribal Villages benefitting through
6.22+ lakh Pucca Houses
26,800+ Villages Provided Piped Water Supply
17,000+ Households Electrified
3300+ Villages Mobile Connectivity

6.5+ Crore tribal people screened under National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission

CBC 43101/13/0028/2526

Live Telecast on DD News | #JanjatiyaGauravVarsh #Birsa150

Cane crisis: Sugar factory owners agree to pay Rs 3,300/MT

Agitating farmers call off indefinite protest in Mudhol

BAGALKOT, DHNS

The agitating sugarcane growers called off their indefinite protest on Friday after the factory owners agreed to pay Rs 3,300 per tonne of cane irrespective of recovery rate.

In a meeting arranged by district in-charge minister R B Thimmapur with the warring parties, the sugar factory owners agreed to clear the pending dues of the farmers. Also, they agreed to pay the farmers Rs 3,300 per tonne, without taking recovery rate into account, within 14 days of the cane supply. The factories have started crushing sugarcane from Friday itself.

The stalemate between the sugarcane growers and the factory owners ended in a meeting on Friday. The sugar factories in the district have begun crushing sugarcane from Friday. The government will take necessary steps to ensure that the farmers are not troubled, Thimmapur told *DH*.

"The factories have already cleared Rs 100 crore dues. They have agreed to clear the remaining Rs 25 crore in two days. Further, the factory managements have agreed to pay Rs 3,300 per tonne of cane, irrespective of the recovery rate. Hence, we have decided to end the protest," Basavant Kamble, Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene district president, told *DH*.

Kamble expressed regret over the violence and arson near a sugar factory in the taluk in which more than 20 tractors were damaged.

The sugar factories in Bagalkot district started crushing sugarcane from Friday. DH FILE PHOTO

Won't spare arsonists: Shivanand Patil

Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil on Friday visited Godavari sugar factory at Sameerwadi of Mudhol taluk and took stock of the damaged caused to tractors and the produce after a few miscreants resorted to stone-pelting and setting the sugarcane-laden tractors on fire on Thursday.

He listened to the woes of the farmers who had lost their tractors and the produce after the protest took a violent turn.

Speaking to reporters, the minister said, "Strict action will be taken against the perpetrators of the violence reported on the premises of the factory on Thursday. A team of officials, led by the assistant commissioner, is already assessing damage caused to tractors and sugarcane. The government will take a decision on the quantum of compensation to the affected farmers. The compensation will be released by the state government or from the Belagavi-based S Nijalingappa Sugar Institute."

He said that four tractor engines and over 20 trailers and tyres were damaged in the arson. This apart, sugarcane loaded in over 100 tractors and four two-wheelers parked on the premises were gutted in Thursday's violence.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.1°C
Minimum	19.8°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (date)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Next day)	6:18 am
Moonrise	1:29 am
Moonset	2:02 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

'Santhavani' lecture sessions: Inauguration: M Veerappa Moily: Shatavadhani R Ganesh, Chiranjiv Singh, KG Raghavan to be present: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 10 am.

'Krishi Mela': Award Presentation: H D Kumaraswamy, N Chaluvarayaswamy, S S Mallikarjun, Eshwar Khandre, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Shivananda Patil, N S Bosaraju and K Sudhakar participate; University of Agricultural Sciences: Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK); 2 pm.

Children's Kannada Poetry Gathering: G Kiran Sagar, Shweta S Rao and B V Sunil participate: Yuva Bangalore Trust, Kannada Sahitya Parishath, Chamarajpet; 10.30 am

Ravikantha Nandula's Cartoon Exhibition: K Venugopal and D Sampath Kumar participate; Indian Cartoonists' Association, Midford House, MG Road; 11 am.

Karnataka Rajyotsava Celebration and Puneeth Rajkumar Award Ceremony: Inauguration by M Maheshwar Rao; Roopa Moudgil, C Somashekar and M Prakash Murthy participate;

Kannada Association of Employees of Greater Bangalore Authority Corporations: Greater Bangalore Authority Head Office, NR Road; 3 pm

CULTURAL

Classical Music Festival on the occasion of the 102nd birth anniversary of K V Narayanaswamy: Five Music Concerts: Rama Narayana Gurukulam: Yadugiri Yathiraja Math, Malleswaram; 9 am.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

RAJENDRA SINHJI ARMY OFFICERS' INSTITUTE
(HQ K & K Sub Area Officers Mess Annexe)
50 MG Road, Bangalore - 560 001

TENDER NOTIFICATIONS

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED FROM REPUTED COMPANIES FOR "NON-COMPREHENSIVE AMC FOR CCTV AND ONLINE 3 KVA UPS" **AND** RENOVATION OF TENNIS COURT TO INCLUDE PREPARING OF 02 X PICKLE BALL COURTS AT RSAOI, BANGALORE.

RFP ARE AVAILABLE AT https://rsaoibangalore.in/ download.

SELCO Foundation

Call for Vendors

SUPPLY OF RMS SYSTEMS TO SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

SELCO Foundation – Procurement Officer
690, 15th Cross Rd, Jeewan Griha Colony,
2nd Phase, J P Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560078
procurement@selcofoundation.org

SELCO Foundation hereby invites bids for Scaling and operationalizing Remote Monitoring System (RMS) deployment and establish a fully functional dashboard to monitor the DRE Solutions at Livelihood applications Across the states of India.

The detailed tender document which can be downloaded from 15/11/2025.

https://selcofoundation.org/tender/

Bids, as per the terms and conditions herein should be submitted preferably through the online form (E-tender)

https://forms.gle/8j4ozMBm8bwCv3Ez8

or submitted to the undersigned, at the above-mentioned address by 4 pm on or before 01/12/2025.

Chief Executive Officer – SELCO Foundation

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND
Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878 • e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com • CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,

Project Name: RFP for Selection of Agency for Providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi.
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/RB/OM/675
PR No.: 365299
Tender ID: 2025_UDD_106278_1
This is for information of all the bidders that following Corrigendum is being made in tender documents for **"RFP for Selection of Agency for Providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi".**
The bidders are advised to take into account the following Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender.

Corrigendum - 1

Sl. No.	Bid Document Ref.	Description	As per RFP Document	As per Corrigendum - 1
1.	NIT	Last Date & Time of submission of Bid, Tender Fee and EMD online	17/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs	27/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs
2.		Date & Time of Bid Opening	18/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs	28/11/2025 at 17:00 Hrs

Note: Other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
PR 366089 (Urban Development) 25-26 (D)
Sd/-
Project Director (Technical) JUIDCO Ltd.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar.
No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.127-Call-3/Works/2025-26 Date:12.11.2025

TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works DetailsConstruction of Various essential buildings for LFC/LPT/VPP/VCC Departments at Veterinary College Puttur, 2) Tender Estimate Amount **Rs.4,33,75,186.00,** 3) Contractors eligibility detailsAs mentioned e-portal, 4) Tender Amount Details **Rs.4,33,75,186.00,** 5) Cost of tender form and EMD details As mentioned e-portal,6) Pre-Bid meeting at Estate Branch KVAFSU Bidar on **24.11.2025 at 11.00 AM,** 7) Last date for submitting application **12.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM,** 8) Opening of Technical Bid (Two Cover Works)**15.12.2025 at 11.30 AM,** 9) Opening of financial bid **18.12.2025 at 11.30. AM,** 10) For more details contact office address, contract numbers Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nan dinagar, Bidar 08482-245446, 11) Website details e-procurement portal- https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/237/KSMC&A/2025-26
Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar.

Don't Miss Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DH DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE — Is India ready to care for its elderly?
BOOKS — Do you speak Algospeak?
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BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Platform)

BESCOM invites tender for the following service through E-Procurement mode only.
Service Estimate Number : BESCOM/2024-25/SE0206 (Call III) for Providing mechanized Housekeeping services, Security services, Plumber, Gardener, Electrician, Warden to BESCOM HRD Training and Research Institute at Ramanagara (Call III).
Further details of the tender can be obtained from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E-Procurement" on or after **17.11.2025.**

For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
General Manager (Civil), BESCOM, Bengaluru

ಗ್ರೇಟರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಎನ್.ಆರ್ ಚೌಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 002.

ಸಂ: ಮು.ಆ/ಜಿ.ಬಿ.ಎ/ಪಿಆರ್/136/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.11.2025

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 10(1) ರ ಅವಕಾಶದಂತೆ ಗ್ರೇಟರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಯ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಅಇ 515 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಜೆ 2025 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.10.2025 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 4–ಬಿ ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರದತ್ತವಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಚಲಾಯಿಸಿ, ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಅಇ 169 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಜೆ 2016, ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.11.2017 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾದ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ 303 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಅಇ 515 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಜೆ 2025 (ಭಾ–4)(ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03.11.2025 ರಂತೆ 02 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 305 ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ/ಪೇಟೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ 68681.88 ಹೆಕ್ಟೇರ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಪರಿಷ್ಕೃತ ಗ್ರೇಟರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶವೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅದರಂತೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.10.2025 ರಂದು ನಡೆದ ಗ್ರೇಟರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಸಭೆಯ ವಿಷಯ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 10(1) ರ ಅವಕಾಶದಂತೆ ಗ್ರೇಟರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಯ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ, ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಲಹೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 60 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಗ್ರೇಟರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಎನ್.ಆರ್ ಚೌಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 002 ರವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ,
ಗ್ರೇಟರ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division, No. 194, T Mariyappa Road, Opp to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bengaluru
No.: EE/CKP/E-PROC/05/2025-26 Date: 14.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru Central City Corporation invites short term request proposal for long term leasing of BCCC Vacant Corner Land plot on JC Road, Bengaluru for Development of Commercial Establishment (2nd Call).
Following are the Events of bid process: (1) Date of commencement of download of document from eprocurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from: **17.11.2025. (2)** Last date and time for uploading online queries in eprocurement: **19.11.2025, 2:00 p.m. (3)** Date and time of pre-bid meeting: **19.11.2025** at **3:00 p.m.** at the following venue: Executive Engineer, Chikpete Division, No. 194, T Mariyappa Road, Opp to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle, Jayanagara. **(4)** Last date and time for uploading of RFP in eprocurement portal: **26.11.2025, 4:00 p.m. (5)** Date and time of Technical bid opening of RFP: **27.11.2025, 4:30 p.m. (6)** Place of opening of applications: **Online at eprocurement portal. (7)** Address for Communication: **Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, No. 194, T Mariyappa Road, Opp to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle.**
(1) Tender document may be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. (2) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division, BCCC

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Jayanagar Shopping Complex, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011
No. EE/MI & GWD Div/Bng/AE-1/Transaction Advisory/2025-26/2662 Datd : 13.11.2025

REQUEST FOR PRPOSAL (Tender Notification)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Bangalore has invited tenders from Empanelled Transaction Advisors through KPP Portal for the below mention service. The tender procedure as per KTPP Act and standard tender document shall be followed. The bidders are requested to submit tenders through KPP portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as follows:
Name of the work: Seclection of Consultant for Providing Transaction Advisory Services for Lake Rejuvenatiion & Sustainable Development in Karnataka. **Tender processing fee's :** As specified in KPP Portal, **Stipulated period of completion :** 40 weeks.
(1) Request For Proposal (RFP) will be Published through KPP- Portal : **14/11/2025 from 11.30 Hrs (2)** Last Date & Time for Queries/Clarifications : **26/11/2025 upto 14:00 Hrs (3)** Pre bid meeting date and Venue : **27/11/2025 @ 15:00 Hrs,** Office of the Superintending Engineer Office, Jayanagara 4th Block, Shopping Complex, Bangalore.Email-id: **semibng@gmail.com (4)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Request For Proposal : **15/12/2025 @ 16:00 Hrs, (5)** Date & Time for Opening of Request For Proposal :**17/12/2025 @ 11:30 Hrs** All the details of this particular tender are uploaded in **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** further for any clarification contact concerned department telephone no: **080-26632884.**

DIPR/CP/3815/2025-2026
Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I. & G.W.D. Division

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/Tr (OP)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/25-26/6350 Dated:13.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/733/Call-2 Dated:25.09.2025 **for "Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of Coyote & Rabbit ACSR Conductors required for various sub-stations of KPTCL for maintenance purpose coming under Transmission (OP) Zone, KPTCL, Mysuru conforming to our technical specifications. F.O.R.D. at store/site basis, including insurance, transporatation and unloading."** The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 15.11.2025.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.,) Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur Hassan District.

Short Term Tender Notification No:08/2025-26
Date: 14.11.2025

The Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur-573120 Hassan Taluk Hassan Dist., As Per KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3, invited Item rate Short term tender (One cover & Two cover) through K.P.P.Portal only vide No.08/2025-26, Date:14.11.2025 on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of KPWD Class-IV and above of any State /Central Government /Public Sector organization. Details-2work (Two Cover), approximate Maximun amount Rs.83.87Lakhs and minimum Rs.9.47Lakhs EMD as Prescribed in K.P.P.Portal, The contractor can have access e-tender documents from 15.11.2025 to 25.11.2025 through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by K.P.P.Portal (2)Opening of Technical bid (Cover-I) 26.11.2025 at 5.00 PM onwards. (if possible) (3)Cover-II (Financial bid) will be opened after approval of Technical bid from the competent authority. For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov. (Department).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur.
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/768/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka- Autonomous Institution
Ph-08272-298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in

No: DME/2025-26/IND1629/CALL-2 Date: 12-11-2025

Re-Tender Notification

Under Signed invites e-tender notification in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal **https:kppp.karanataka.gov.in** GOK, for the **SUPPLY OF CSSD EQUIPMENTS and Furniture's to KoIMS** teaching Hospital Madikeri. last date for upload is 27-11-2025 for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Director and Dean KoIMS Madikeri

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
Website: www.kride.in Email ID: agm.electrical@kride.in
Proforma 10-02
INDIAN RAILWAYS

"INTRODUCTION OF 25 KV AC TRACTION"
"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

It is notified for information of the public that in connection with introduction of 25 kV AC Electric Traction over the under noted section of the Indian Railway, height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear maximum height 4.78m above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire.(Contact Wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5m above the rail level at level crossings.

Section	Date	Zone
Belandur Road (Incl.) to Karmelaram (Incl.) double line section and Huskur crossing station in Bangalore Division. 1. Up Line from loc. 193/25 (Ch. Km 193/605.90) to loc. 198/8 (Ch. Km 198/202.50). 2. Loop lines including crossovers at Huskur station from loc. 187/10 (Ch: Km 187/313.30) to loc. 188/28 (Ch. Km 188/663.50).	14.11.2025	South Western Railway

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauge under any circumstances.
The danger of a load of excessive height are as follows: -
i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line.
ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried on vehicle itself.
iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 14.11.2025
Sd/- General Manager (I/c) - Electrical
Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd.
DIPR/CP/VCPL/3799/2025-26

@KridePrm Kride Bsrp Kride_bsrp KRIDE.BSRP

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in
No: N/109/2025/1161 Date: 12.11.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sub: Rescheduling of Public Hearing and Extension of time for filing objections on the proposal for levying Additional Surcharge on Open Access Consumers.

As notified in the public notice dated 06.11.2025 the Commission had scheduled the public hearing on the subject on 02.12.2025. The same is now **re-scheduled on 09.12.2025 at 03.00 pm** instead of 02.12.2025 at 2.00 pm.
All other terms and conditions pertaining to virtual mode of hearing and filing objections, is applicable and holds good as notified in the public notices dated 30.10.2025 and 06.11.2025, shall remain unchanged.

DIPR/CP/3802/2025-26
Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
Website: www.kride.in Email ID: agm.electrical@kride.in
Proforma 10-01
INDIAN RAILWAYS

"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Indian Railway that the 25000 Volt, 50 Hz., ac overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Section	Date	Zone
Belandur Road (Incl.) to Karmelaram (Incl.) double line section and Huskur crossing station in Bangalore Division. 1. Up Line from loc. 193/25 (Ch. Km 193/605.90) to loc. 198/8 (Ch. Km 198/202.50). 2. Loop lines including crossovers at Huskur station from loc. 187/10 (Ch: Km 187/313.30) to loc. 188/28 (Ch. Km 188/663.50).	14.11.2025	South Western Railway

Place: Bangalore
Date: 14.11.2025
Sd/- General Manager (I/c) - Electrical
Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd.
DIPR/CP/VCPL/3798/2025-26

@KridePrm Kride Bsrp Kride_bsrp KRIDE.BSRP

झारखण्ड सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
सत्यमेव जयते

झारखण्ड 25 अनंत संभावनाओं की ओर

उलगुलान के महानायक

भगवान बिरसा मुंडा

की 150वीं जयंती पर 25 वर्ष का युवा झारखण्ड धरती आबा को नमन करता है

जोहार

झारखण्ड के खूंटी स्थित उलिहातू की पहाड़ियों और जंगलों में जन्मा एक ऐसा महानायक, जिसने अपने साहस और संघर्ष से ब्रिटिश शासन को चुनौती दी। वे बिरसा मुंडा थे, जिन्हें उनके अनुयायियों ने धरती आबा भगवान बिरसा मुंडा के रूप में पूजा।

बिरसा मुंडा ने आदिवासियों के अधिकारों के लिए संघर्ष का बिगुल बजाया, उनका उद्देश्य स्पष्ट था। लोगों को उनकी भूमि और अधिकार वापस दिलाना।

बिरसा मुंडा के क्रांतिकारी विचारों से विचलित हो कर ब्रिटिश शासकों ने उन्हें गिरफ्तार कर जेल में डाल दिया गया। जेल में ही 09 जून 1900 को धरती आबा भगवान बिरसा मुंडा शहीद हो गए।

लेकिन उनके उलगुलान का संदेश थमा नहीं। बिरसा मुंडा समेत वीर पुरखों के आदर्शों पर चल कर लंबे संघर्ष और बलिदान के बाद आंदोलनकारियों ने झारखण्ड अलग राज्य का सपना पूरा किया। आज धरती आबा का युवा झारखण्ड हम सभी के समक्ष है।

श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार
माननीय राज्यपाल, झारखण्ड

श्री हेमन्त सोरेन
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

PR 366136 (IPRD)

BIHAR BYTES

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

"I didn't go there. I don't know why we faced a setback, who didn't vote for us and how NDA won this way. Even in Bihar, there was vote chori.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"People have given their mandate. It's a lesson for us. In future, we'll work out a new strategy for Congress and our alliance.

R ASHOKA
Leader of the Opposition

"What happened in Haryana, Maharashtra, and now Bihar is a clear warning for Congress. A party that has already lost public confidence will soon face the same fate here - a complete and certain wipeout.

B Y VIJAYENDRA
BJP K'taka president

"This verdict proves that the people of Bihar rejected Congress and its allies' repeated attempts to question and delegitimize our electoral system. Their narrative has no takers on the ground.

H D KUMARASWAMY
Union Minister

"The people of Bihar have chosen a future built on trust, progress, and inclusive growth. Together, we will continue our journey towards a Viksit Bharat and a stronger, brighter tomorrow for every citizen.

After Bihar whip, K'taka situation may bother Congress

Result presents a strong case for the BJP-JD(S) alliance

BENGALURU, DHNS

Badly bruised in Bihar, the Congress high command would now want to exercise greater caution in deciding the way forward in Karnataka, where the party has its strongest government.

One reading of the situation is that the Bihar verdict could help Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who belongs to the backward Kuruba (shepherd) community, to stay on even as his deputy D K Shivakumar is waiting at the door.

However slow, the high command must eventually address the Karnataka situation: Siddaramaiah pushing for a Cabinet reshuffle with him continuing at the helm, while Shivakumar wanting his fate decided first.

Some in political circles are recalling what transpired in Rajasthan when the Congress was ruling - the power tussle between then Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy Sachin Pilot.

According to sources, Shivakumar and his camp may argue with the top brass that the Ahinda (minorities, backward classes and Dalits) coalition was with the Congress even before Siddaramaiah joined the party.

"The high command may think that it would be better to consolidate one major community in its favour - the Vokkaligas - by making Shivakumar the CM," one Congressman said.

It is also being said that Siddaramaiah can be placated by giving him a bigger party role and a place in the administration for his MLC-son Dr Yathindra.

The CM's camp has maintained that Siddaramaiah is indispensable. "The high command is aware that forcing Siddaramaiah out would result in the party losing the support of the Kuruba community. So, unless Siddaramaiah is convinced to step aside, there will be a status quo," a senior Congress leader said.

In Bihar, the Congress' reliance on other backward classes (OBC) did not yield results. When asked about this, Siddaramaiah retorted: "Who is Nitish Kumar? He, too, belongs to OBC."

Morale booster for oppn

For the Opposition, the Bihar result is a morale-booster presenting a strong case for the BJP-JD(S) alliance when the state goes to polls in 2028. The alliance worked well during the Lok Sabha polls last year.

"Our party is fully supporting the BJP in the alliance," Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy of the JD(S) said after the Bihar result.

"Some local BJP leaders have trust issues. The BJP leadership has the capacity to fix all that," he said.

"I'm sure the Bihar result will enthuse the BJP leaders in Karnataka as well."

Shaw praises DKS, says started seeing visible change on city roads

BENGALURU, DHNS

Billionaire entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, who has been critical of Bengaluru's infrastructure issues on social media, hailed Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday, stating that she has started "seeing visible change in cleaner footpaths and asphalted roads across the city."

"Your leadership has been key in rescuing our city from collapsing under the weight of garbage debris and potholes," she said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"Please continue to drive this important development. Credit is also due to the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Let's build a world-class city through collective civic responsibility," she said in the post.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

DyCM D K Shivakumar

Her post comes almost a month after a heated social media exchange between industry leaders and the state government over Bengaluru's infrastructure.

Following the criticism, the government had put its weight behind the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the five newly-carved corporations to make use of unused funds to repair roads while also announcing additional grants for the improvement of roads across the city.

Son vows to carry forward Saalumarada Thimmakka's legacy

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Renowned environmentalist late Saalumarada Thimmakka's son has vowed to carry forward her legacy.

Umesh B N, Thimmakka's adopted son, told *DH*: "She has achieved a great feat in her lifetime. She has asked me to carry forward her mission and always look after the environment, and that is what I'll do."

Saalumarada Thimmakka.

Environmentalist and former Indian Forest Service officer, Yellapa Reddy recalled coming across the inspiring story of Thimmakka as the environment secretary in 1992-93.

"Back then, Dr Balakrishna Gowda was one of the first to come across the trees she had nurtured and he was mighty impressed. He gave me an official report on her, and I had recommended her for the Indira Priyadarshini Award, which she won," he recalled.

Thimmakka's story serves as a reminder that "a small gesture is good enough to make a global impact," Reddy said.

"You don't need to be part of any big organisation or have a huge funding, all you need is good intent. With her good intent, Thimmakka ended up creating an ecosystem of 'Vata Vrukshas' (Ficus benghalensis). She helped several animals and birds by lovingly nurturing these trees," he said.

For many, this remains a stand-out feature of the environmentalist. "She was never focused on solely taking care of plants. But also on what species are most essential to aid wildlife and birds. That's a great outlook to have about environmental conservation," said Akshay Heblikar, director of Eco Watch.

Reminiscing about Thimmakka's vigour to protect nature, B K Singh, retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Karnataka, said: "Watering trees as far as 10 km from her house and protecting them is not an easy task. But she has made it possible. She would not hesitate to quarrel with people who damage trees... It requires passion and dedication in an individual, and she has exactly demonstrated it."

No water from TB dam for second crop: Minister

'All 33 crest gates of the dam will be replaced by next June-end'

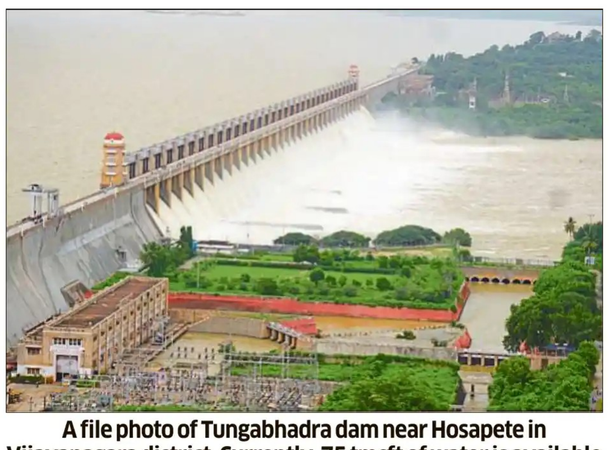
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has decided not to release water from Tungabhadra reservoir for second crop due to crest gate installation.

Addressing a news conference on Friday after the Irrigation Advisory Committee meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Koppal district in-charge minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said, "Decision was taken unanimously as per the central government and Tungabhadra Board's resolution and suggestions from legislators and farmer leaders of four districts. Due to the installation of 33 gates at the dam, there will be no water for the second crop."

"The government's priority is to ensure farmers' welfare. Along with that, protecting the dam is also our duty. In this context, a meeting was held with legislators and farmer leaders from Koppal, Raichur, Vijayanagar and Ballari districts, and the decision was taken unanimously," he stated.

The installation of the new 33 gates will begin from December second week and the work will be completed by June-end. The contract has been awarded to a Gujarat-based company. Along with this, some canal repairs and minor dam maintenance works will also be completed during this time, he said.



A file photo of Tungabhadra dam near Hosapete in Vijayanagara district. Currently, 75 tmcft of water is available in the reservoir. Water will be released until January 10 so that standing crops are not affected.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Water Resources Minister

"There was a provision to store 105 tmcft of water. As per the advice by the central government and the Board, only 80 tmcft has been stored considering dam safety. For the second crop, Karnataka needs at least 60 tmcft. But due to gate installation, it is not possible to release water.

Currently, 75 tmcft of water is available in the reservoir. Water will be released until January 10 so that standing crops are not affected. Also, during summer, water will be stored for drinking purposes by filling lakes and tanks and for other uses, he said.

Water usage is being managed based on the availability in the reservoir. From Dec 1 to Jan 10, 3,000 cusecs of water will be released to the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal for standing crops. From Jan 1 to May 10, 150 cusecs will be released to the Vijayanagar Left Bank Canal through distributary canals 1 to 11E, he explained.

Man poisons 8 of neighbour's family over enmity

BAGEPALLI (CHIKKABALLAPUR DISTRICT), DHNS: Eight members of a family took seriously ill after consuming food laced with poison in Devareddypalli village of Bagepalli taluk on Thursday night. An old enmity between neighbours is said to be reason for the incident.

The houses of Maddireddy and Papireddy are situated adjacent to each other in the village.

The two families had quarreled over a drainage issue. Papireddy nourished grudge against his neighbour and instigated one Chowdareddy to mix poison in the sambar in Maddireddy's house.

Chowdareddy came to Maddireddy's house on the pretext of drinking water and laced sambar with poison.

Eight members of Maddireddy's family who consumed sambar took seriously ill. After first aid at government hospital in Bagepalli, they were shifted to district hospital on Chikkaballapur.

Chikkaballapur Superintendent of Police Kushal Chowksi visited the village. He said action would be initiated against the culprits. Bagepalli police have registered a case.

Chowdareddy, who mixed poison in sambar, has been arrested. Additional police force has been deployed in the village as a precautionary measure.

Three people die in car-bike collision in Mudhol

MUDHOL (BAGALKOT DISTRICT), DHNS: Three people, including a pedestrian, were killed in a car-bike collision near Malali Cross in Mudhol taluk, Bagalkot district, on Friday.

The deceased have been identified as Ganapati Annappa Bathe (28), a school teacher at Vadagol village in Chikkodi taluk of Belagavi district, and the pillion rider Babanna Ramchandrappa Pawar (42) of Medaral Tanda in Maski taluk of Raichur district.

The pedestrian, Tapaskumar Basudev Dhaloi (46), a native of West Bengal, who had sustained grievous injuries in the mishap, failed to respond to treatment and died in a Mudhol hospital.

The Mudhol police have registered a case and investigation is underway.

Stray dog mauls elderly man to death in M'luru

MANGALURU, DHNS: A 60-year-old man was found dead in a pool of blood with multiple injuries after being allegedly mauled by a stray dog at Kumpala on the city's outskirts in the wee hours on Friday.

The elderly man was identified as Dayananda, said police sources. "Forensic experts who visited the spot confirmed that the multiple injuries on the face and body were caused by the dog," City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy said.

Eyewitnesses also told police that they had seen a dog with blood in its face loitering around the area.

As a precautionary measure, the dog was caught by dog catchers and shifted to Animal Care Trust's shelter in Shaktinagar. Ullal Police have registered a case and are investigating.

Dalit organisations to take out rally in Chittapur on Nov 26

KALABURAGI, DHNS: The co-ordination committee of Dalit organisations, comprising members from Bheem Army, Bharatiya Dalit Panther, Karnataka State Chalavadi Welfare Association, on Friday announced its decision to take out a 'Samvidhan Samavesh (Constitution Convention)' rally in Chittapur on November 26 in response to the route march that the RSS is organising on November 16.

Find political solution first...

Manipur, From Flap Page 1

The BJP has 37 MLAs in the House of 60, but 10 representing the Kuki-Zo communities, including seven from the saffron party, have stayed away from Imphal since the conflict erupted in May 2023.

They have been demanding a "separate administration" — in the form of a Union Territory with a legislature — as the only way forward for finding a solution. Five Naga People's Front (NPF) MLAs are also in favour of restoring the government. The National People's Party (NPP), with six MLAs, had withdrawn support while questioning then-chief minister Biren Singh's leadership during the crisis.

But the BJP's central leadership wants support from the Kukis for the restoration of the government.

The KZC's stand comes as a setback as BJP MLAs — including Biren Singh — met the party's central leadership in New Delhi recently and pressed for the restoration of the government.

Security forces demolish house of doc behind Delhi blast

Demolish, from Flap Page 1

Officials said Umar, once regarded as a bright, academically driven doctor in his community, appeared to have drifted toward hardline beliefs over the past two years. They found he had joined multiple radical messaging groups on social platforms.

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack in April, security forces had launched sweeping counter-terror operations across south Kashmir.

Through May, more than a dozen residential houses, suspected hideouts and safe structures used by terrorists were blasted in targeted operations in Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam as part of what officials described as an "uncompromising dismantling of the support ecosystem".

Many of those demolitions involved structures belonging to active militants or families believed to have knowingly facilitated shelter, logistics or transport for outlawed groups.

Officials said Thursday night's demolition fits into the same template — zero tolerance towards properties allegedly used for harbouring militants or aiding terror activity.

They added that the Red Fort blast probe has revealed a pattern of "white-collar radicalisation" where educated professionals have increasingly been used by Pakistan-based handlers to execute high-impact attacks because of their mobility, clean records and social acceptability.

While civil society groups and political leaders have raised concerns over demolitions affecting families, security officials maintain that the method is used only when properties are proven to be directly linked to militant activity and when their continued use poses an operational threat.

With the car blast investigation widening and south Kashmir still on high alert, officials indicated that more targeted actions are likely in the coming days as agencies move to, in their words, "break the last mile of the terror infrastructure".

ORR: Traffic cops want pay-and-park system in IT parks

ORR, From Flap Page 1

Manas Das, president of the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA), initially agreed that the suggestion would mitigate congestion to some extent but said it was "too early to implement" because all tech companies provide free parking space for their employees as they are forced to use their vehicles due to a lack of better options.

He emphasised the need for increasing means of transportation, fixing road conditions and increasing the frequency of BMTC buses.

He also demanded that BMTC buses should drop off employees inside the tech parks.

"Only then will employees be motivated to use public transportation. And after implementing all the above measures, only then can the parking fee be introduced," he stated.

However, Krishna Gowda of the Greater Bengaluru IT and Companies' Association (GBICA) said it would be improbable to force high-earning tech professionals to use public transport.

"Many IT professionals earn an average of Rs 5-6 lakh per month. How can we push them to use overcrowded metro trains and BMTC buses? How can we stop them from using their own cars even by imposing parking fees?" he asked.

Oppn cries 'vote chori' but problems elsewhere

Oppn, from Page 1

While the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' by Congress' campaigner-in-chief Rahul Gandhi and RJD scion Tejashwi Yadav brought the party cadre together, an absence of subsequent joint action took away whatever gains that accrued to the Opposition alliance.

That Rahul and Tejashwi, who criss-crossed Bihar in August second-half, could not find time to jointly campaign for the elections, would tell what went wrong for the I.N.D.I.A bloc in a nutshell.

They held just two joint rallies on a single day – on October 29 – during the entire campaign and did not meet again.

One would have believed that there would be a repeat of what Rahul and Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav pulled off in Uttar Pradesh during the Lok Sabha elections last year but mutual suspicion between the two majors in the Bihar alliance appeared to have sealed their fate.

The I.N.D.I.A bloc almost wasted two months after the conclusion of yatra on September 1 – except for the release of the manifesto for Extremely Backward Classes, which the alliance thought would dump Nitish for them, in a hotel on September 24 – by not going to the ground with a common purpose.

And when they came together in the midst of campaign on October 23 to announce Tejashwi as the chief ministerial face, it was preceded by high drama with Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani raising the alliance managers' heartbeats by initially refusing to join the programme.

Sahani was made deputy chief ministerial face but his party, which claims the support of the Nishads, failed to add anything to the alliance, if one looks at the numbers and the VIP too fared badly in the polls, not opening its account.

For its part, the Congress played hardball by not endorsing Tejashwi as the face till the last minute, cribbing about RJD's tactical indifference to them citing its 2020 performance.

RJD's one-upmanship of projecting just Tejashwi – on banners and even naming the manifesto 'Tejashwi's Pran' (Tejashwi's Resolve) – and not a united front also added to the discomfort. CPI(ML)L expressed its reservation over being consulted over manifesto projection.

The question now remains is whether the Opposition bloc will have a sincere postmortem on what went wrong or will they settle for a blame game.

Nitish, naari hand NDA big Bihar win

Nitish, from Page 1

The NDA landslide left the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc badly bruised and battered, deeply exposing the limitations of majoritarian Mandal politics over pragmatic socialism. Lalu Yadav's son and heir apparent, Tejaswi, won from the family bastion Raghopur after trailing in the initial rounds. The elder son, Tej Pratap, who had rebelled to form his own party, however, lost to Mohua.

All I.N.D.I.A bloc allies went down with the mothership, with Congress ending the day with a single-digit tally, sputtering yet again in its efforts to emerge as a coherent national alternative to the BJP.

Of the six seats, Congress won one by a margin on 200, one by 600 and another by 1,600 votes.

The 2025 Bihar election establishes Nitish Kumar as the undisputed Teflon King of Indian politics. No matter what you throw at him, nothing sticks. Not allegations of graft levelled by the Opposition. Not his periodical flip-flops across the 'secular-communal' divide. And not even the stories circulating about his health, as JD(U) emerged as the biggest gainer after the Friday counting, almost doubling its tally from the 43 it got in the 2020 elections.

Social scientist Ajay Kumar says NDA's rainbow social coalition, powered by the ME (Mahila-Extremely Backward Class), pitched against Lalu Yadav's MY (Muslim-Yadav) combination, exposed the limitations of majoritarian Mandal politics.

Though his tally less was a than the BJP's, Nitish Kumar seems to have made his point: it is he and not Lalu Yadav who stands between the BJP and the saffron outfits' complete dominance of Bihar politics.

With the 2025 win, Nitish Kumar entered the select club of leaders like Jyoti Basu, Naveen Patnaik and Pawan Chamling of Sikkim to remain in office for two decades or more.

Unlike others in the set, Kumar has displayed a remarkable ability to switch sides - from secular to communal, from one end of the political spectrum to another - and yet remains scathed.

Though the NDA arithmetic strengthens the BJP's hand in negotiating with Nitish Kumar, in the past it has not baulked, as in 2020, at conceding chief ministership despite winning more seats than JD(U). On two occasions, the BJP has welcomed Nitish Kumar back to the NDA, knowing fully well the advantage of having one of the tallest leaders from the minor-OBC community among its midst.

With UP elections in 2027, where SP's Akhilesh Yadav is making a strong pitch for backward votes, the BJP would not want to send a wrong signal.

If he is chosen to lead the government again, Nitish will take oath for the 10th time: the chief minister with 10 lives.

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Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar
Honourable Governor, Jharkhand

PRESIDED BY

Shri Hemant Soren
Honourable Chief Minister, Jharkhand

SPECIAL GUEST

Shri K. Raju
Permanent Invited Member of CWC of AICC and Jharkhand in-charge

Date: 15.11.2025 | Time: 02:00 PM
Event Venue: Morhabadi Maidan, Ranchi

HONORED GUESTS

Shri Sanjay Seth
Honourable Minister of State for Defence

Shri Radha Krishna Kishore
Honourable Minister

Shri Sanjay Prasad Yadav
Honourable Minister

Shri Deepak Prakash
Honourable Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

Smt. Mahua Maji
Honourable Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

Shri Aditya Prasad Sahu
Honourable Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

Shri Pradeep Kumar Varma
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Honourable Member of Legislative Assembly, Jharkhand

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar
Honourable Governor, Jharkhand

Shri Hemant Soren
Honourable Chief Minister, Jharkhand

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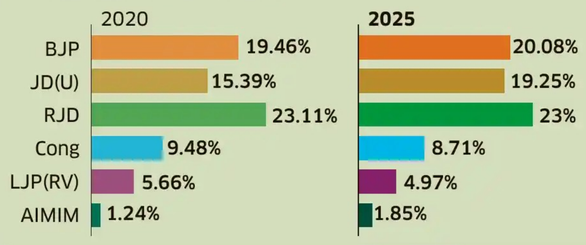
DH DECCAN HERALD

Political THEATRE

CHANGE IN VOTE %



LOWEST MARGIN

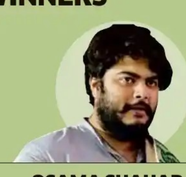
27
RADHA CHARAN SAH
SANDESH, JD(U)

BIGGEST MARGIN

59,079
SANJIV CHAURASIA
Digha, BJP

PROMINENT WINNERS

VIJAY KUMAR SINHA
LAKHISARAI
BJP



OSAMA SHAHAB
RAGHUNATHPUR
RJD

INDRAJEET PRASAD
SAHARSA
Indian Inclusive Party

CHETAN ANAND
NABINAGAR
JD(U)

Female voters drive Nitish's big win again

JD(U) leader reaps dividends of women-centric schemes such as the Rs 10,000 monetary aid for self-employment

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As the NDA marched ahead of its rivals to score a thumping victory in Bihar, it is undeniable that women voters have once again backed Nitish Kumar in his quest to remain in power.

In the past five Assembly elections in the state, women have outnumbered men in voting percentage, according to the Election Commission's data. But this time, the gap between the voting percentages of men and women has set a record, with women (71.6%) leading by around 8.8 percentage points over men (66.91%), this is especially when men outnumbered women by 42.3 lakh in absolute terms.

In seven districts, the percentage of female voters who exercised their franchise outnumbered their male counterparts by more than 14 percentage points. In 10 districts, this figure was around 10 percentage points. Patna was the only exception where men led in the voting percentage.

Despite a perceived anti-incumbency, women voters, who have been generous to both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nitish over the years, have done wonders for the NDA.

In return, Nitish has invested in the women vote bank with schemes.

Barring the election in 2005, which saw Nitish ascending to the CM throne for the second time after his short-lived first stint in 2000, the voting percentage of women has stayed above that of men in all the subsequent Assembly polls.

Veteran journalist and political analyst Radhika Rameshan said women have been a decisive factor in Bihar since the time Nitish announced prohibition. "The initial capital has since been enhanced by Nitish through reservation for women, offering of free bicycles, etc. with actual results on the ground," she says, adding that while prohibition has its critics, women have pointed to fewer instances of domestic violence due to it.

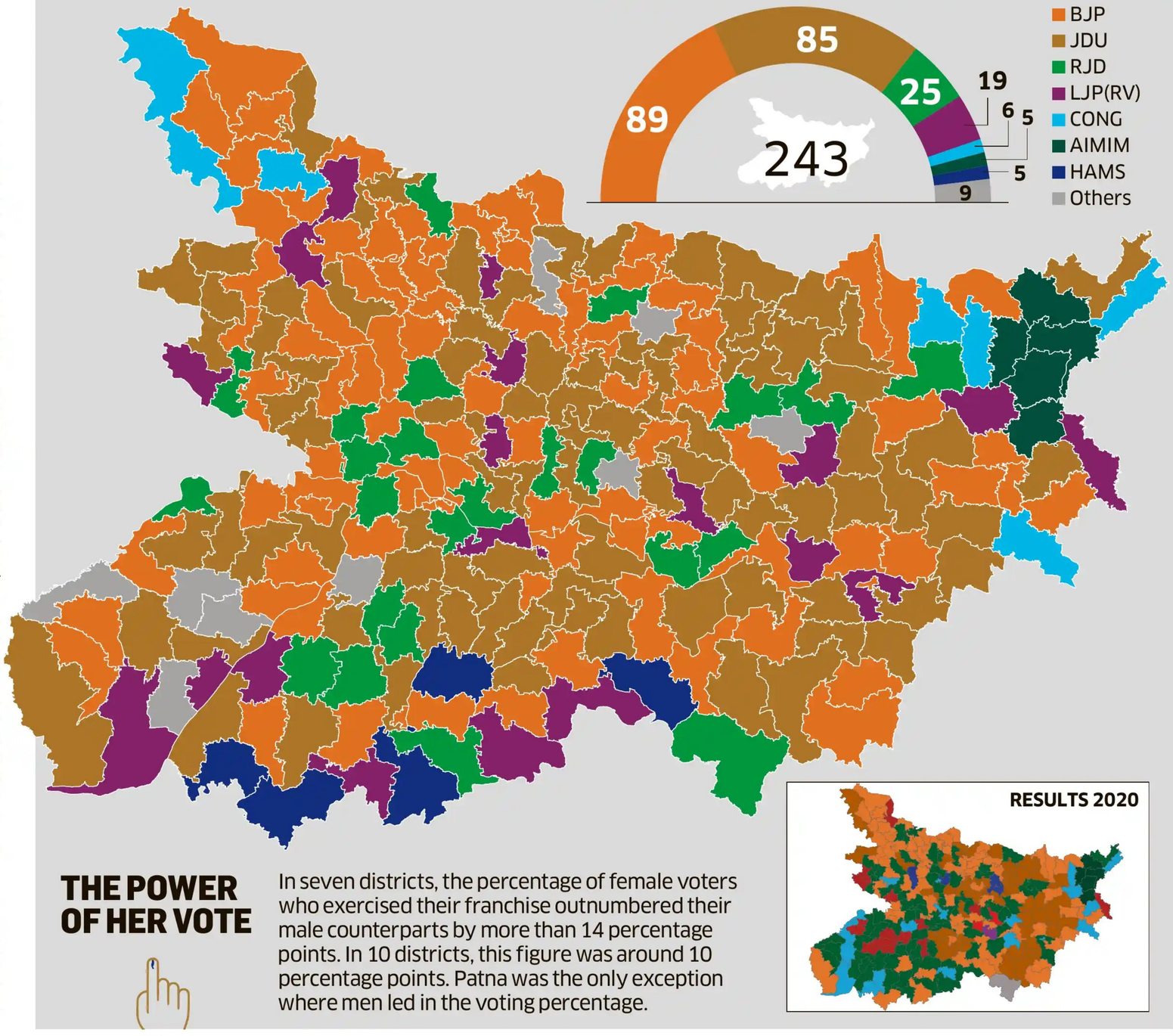
This time, the Nitish government's populist offering of Rs 10,000 to every eligible women to help them start self-employment activities under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana has cemented this loyalty, especially after Modi launched the scheme by transferring the amounts directly to the bank accounts of 75 lakh women in September.

"The move is significant as it has the potential to create a block of women entrepreneurs," Ramaseshan said.

BJP OBC Morcha General Secretary and party spokesperson Nikhil Anand said while there is no denying that women emerged as the biggest support base, it is not only the Rs 10,000 dole which worked in the NDA's favour.

Political analyst and author Rasheed Kidwai, however, said that such populist moves give a ruling party an edge, which is not entirely ethical. "Women-centric schemes on the eve of polls give an unfair advantage to the ruling party or coalition. It is against the grain of free and fair polls," he said.

RESULTS 2025 — **The sisterhood that saved Nitish: Women outvote men by record margin, boosting NDA's Bihar sweep**



THE POWER OF HER VOTE

In seven districts, the percentage of female voters who exercised their franchise outnumbered their male counterparts by more than 14 percentage points. In 10 districts, this figure was around 10 percentage points. Patna was the only exception where men led in the voting percentage.

IN BRIEF

JSP leaders lose deposit

Former poll strategist Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), dubbed the 'X factor' in the Bihar election, failed to open its account despite contesting in 238 seats. According to the EC, most of the JSP candidates have secured less than 10% of the total votes polled and have their deposit forfeited. So far, the party's best performance came from Naveen Kumar Singh alias Abhay Singh, who secured the second spot from Marhaura constituency. Jitendra Kumar Rai of the RJD won the seat by a margin of 27,928 votes.

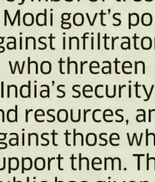
JD(U) members celebrate party's good performance in the Assembly elections, in Patna, on Friday. PTI

NOTA's share up from 2020

The share of the none of the above (NOTA) option went up marginally this time in the Bihar Assembly polls as compared to the last elections but is still much lower than 2015, data shared by the EC shows. According to the latest figures, 1.81%, or 6,65,870 of the total votes polled, went to the NOTA option on EVMs. In 2020, about 7,06,252 people chose the NOTA option in the Assembly election, which worked out to 1.68% of the total votes polled. The number of people who had chosen NOTA in 2015 was 9.4 lakh out of 3.8 crore people who voted, which comes to 2.48%.

WIN & BLAME

Every single vote cast by the people of Bihar is a symbol of trust in the Modi govt's policy against infiltrators who threaten India's security and resources, and against those who support them. The public has given a strong answer to those who protect infiltrators for the sake of vote-bank politics.
Amit Shah
Union Home Minister



The game played by the SIR in Bihar will no longer be possible in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, or elsewhere because this electoral conspiracy has now been exposed. We will not allow them to play this game any further.
Akhilesh Yadav
Samajwadi Party chief

Expectations from the Congress party were inflated due to a recent vote theft yatra, which, in turn, made seat-sharing more difficult.
Omar Abdullah
J&K Chief Minister

Flame flickers in RJD lantern after poll drubbing

Tejashwi will have to draw up strategy to boost morale of cadre and supporters

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Battered like in 2010, the RJD is now looking at challenging times, as it was reduced to just 25 seats in Bihar.

RJD managed to bounce back from 22 seats it won in 2010, with Lalu Prasad presiding over the revival, which catapulted the party to 80 seats in 2015, though in alliance with JD(U).

His son Tejashwi Yadav took over the reins under the supervision of his father in 2020 when the party managed 75 seats to become the single largest party, but now the question is whether Tejashwi can fill in the big shoes, as Lalu may not play an active role due to his advancing age.

Tejashwi went to the town talking about the JD(U)'s future after the elections, claiming that the BJP will devour it, but now he stares at a daunting task of rebuilding trust with people.

Tejashwi will have to tread cautiously as trouble is brewing in the family, which controls RJD, over the role of his advisor Sanjay Yadav. His elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav left the party and sister Rohini Acharya too raised a banner of revolt over Sanjay Yadav.

While tackling family feud, Tejashwi will also have to devote time and draw a strategy to boost the morale of the party cadre and supporters, who were expecting a better performance. His immediate challenge will be to ensure that the traditional base of Muslim-Yadav (MY) sticks with RJD.

The results showed that the RJD failed to attract communities other than the MY combo despite the I.N.D.I.A bloc widening its net by including parties like the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), predominantly addressing the concerns of Nishad community, and the India Inclusive Party (IIP), a party of the Pans.

For Tejashwi and the Lalu family, trouble is also waiting in the courts as corruption cases are coming up for hearing.

"Even if I die in the service of the nation, I would be proud of it. Every drop of my blood... will contribute to the growth of this nation and to make it strong and dynamic."
- Indira Gandhi
एक सार्थक जीवन
... a life well lived
RAJIV GANDHI
1944 - 1991

Congress office in New Delhi wears a deserted look following the Bihar election results. PTI

On Rahul's yatra route, Cong faces rout after rout

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress candidates faced a humiliating defeat in the areas Rahul Gandhi had traversed during his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar this August.

The yatra, aimed at consolidating votes, started in Sasaram and concluded in Patna, covering 25 districts, 183 Assembly constituencies and roughly 1,300 km.

Of the 120 constituencies along the route, only Araria saw a Congress candidate leading; in the rest, party candidates lost. Meanwhile, NDA candidates won nearly 90% of these seats.

Following the BJP's emphatic performance, social media erupted with memes targeting Congress and Rahul. The BJP's Assam unit even issued a tongue-in-cheek apology for upsetting the "national child" on Children's Day, tweeting: "We sincerely apologise for upsetting the 'national child' on Children's Day. Truly unfortunate."

It added, "Thank you Bihar. We will again celebrate together in 2026."

BJP West Bengal also joined the banter, posting: "Next West Bengal," while sharing a video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi telling opponents, "Aap log rona band kijiye" ("stop crying").

The TMC responded in kind, tweeting a skeleton seated on a chair with the caption mocking the BJP's West Bengal ambitions.

On the national level, BJP handles continued the meme fest, jabbing both Rahul and Tejashwi: "95 defeats and still counting. RaGa is collecting electoral losses like limited-edition badges. And whenever the scoreboard looks rough, there is always a fresh blame target ready. The nation has read the script and knows it's FAKE. If losing were a sport, the trophy cabinet would be full by now."

Lalu's son Tej Pratap finishes 3rd in Mahua

PATNA, PTI: RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's elder son and Janshakti Janta Dal chief Tej Pratap Yadav was on Friday relegated to the third spot in Bihar's Mahua seat, with LJP (RV) candidate Sanjay Kumar Singh defeating RJD's Mukesh Kumar Raushan by 44,997 votes.

Tej Pratap, who floated his political outfit after being expelled from the RJD, polled 35,703 votes, while Singh bagged 87,641 votes and Raushan got 42,644 votes, according to the EC.

Was not invited to campaign, says Tharoor

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor said on Friday that he could not comment on the reasons for the party's setback in Bihar because he was not invited to its election campaign there.

"I was not invited to the campaign. Since I did not go there, I can't tell the reasons for the setback from my personal experience. The Congress and the RJD will have to seriously review the performance," said Tharoor.

CPI(ML)L blames fluctuating fortunes on SIR, cash transfer

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The CPI(ML)L was the talk of the town five years ago, winning 12 out of the 19 Assembly seats it contested in Bihar and prompting chatter that had it been given more seats compared to the underperforming Congress, a Mahagathbandhan government would have been in place.

But this time, the CPI(ML)L, like its allies, had its worst performance, winning just two out of 20 seats it contested. Party leaders tried to make sense of the results, with initial responses pointing to the deletion of votes during the SIR and cash transfer before the polls.

Dipankar Bhattacharya

CPI(ML)L general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said the results did not correspond to the ground reality in the state. "The results are absolutely unnatural. A government in power for two decades repeating its 2010 performance cannot be explained," he said.

The CPI(ML)L retained Paliganj by 6,655 votes and Karakat by 2,836 votes, but lost 12 other seats by a margin ranging from 95 votes in Agiaon and 59,079 votes in Digha.

The leaders were "surprised by the turnaround", which they claimed was not seen or felt on the ground during campaigning.

The party had demanded at least 30 seats during seat-sharing negotiations with the RJD, but settled for 20 — one more than what it contested in 2020. At one point, it warned of other options when the RJD appeared unwilling to concede to its demands.

The party also believes that the cash transfer by the Nitish government ahead of the announcement of the elections and other schemes could have tilted the balance against them.

The fear among Nitish supporters that the BJP would devour the JD(U) with inside help might also have led to the ruling party's improved performance, leaders said.

CPI(ML)L sources said there was no sign of the scale of the NDA victory on the ground, and that their preliminary view was that the deletion of votes during the SIR caused it.

ROW & REDEMPTION

In NDA's historic win, poll panel has the last laugh

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

With the curtains coming down on Bihar Assembly elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) probably had the last laugh, given the criticism it received for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

Congress and its allies called the SIR 'vote chori' and attacked the ECI as well as the NDA government at the Centre. The I.N.D.I.A bloc accused the ECI of working at the behest of the BJP.

When the final voters' list was released on September 30, the number of electors came down from 7.89 crore to 7.42 crore. The ECI claimed that it had weeded out the names of deceased, migrated, or duplicate voters.

However, the exercise drew sharp criticism from the Opposition parties as well as civil society members who approached Supreme Court and forced the ECI to include documents like Aadhaar, which it had initially rejected to consider.

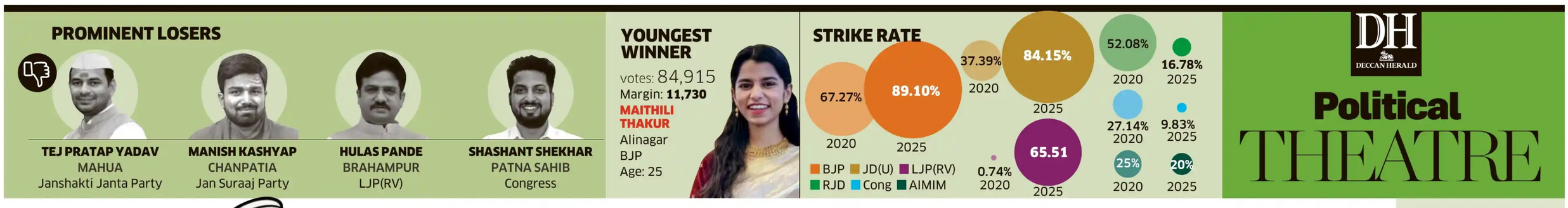
While the exercise was on, *DH* traveled across central, east and north Bihar to assess the reaction of the exercise. People did complain about the lack of time that the ECI gave them, but there was no groundswell against the exercise itself.

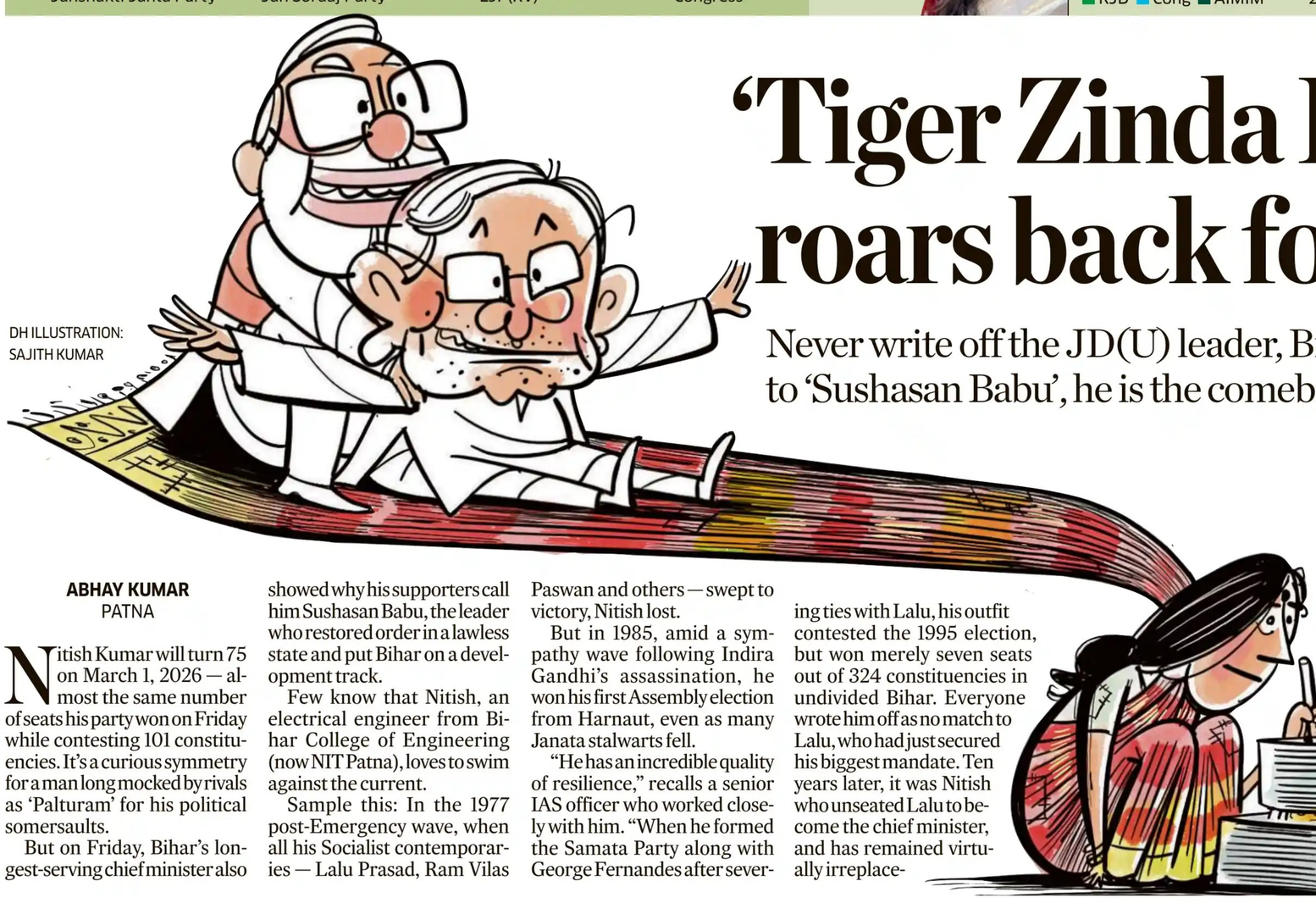
BJP supporters celebrate in Mumbai. PTI

The BJP termed the 'vote chori' campaign of the Opposition as 'support to infiltrators or ghuspaithiya'.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, led the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar. Political analysts said the march helped moribund Congress in Bihar get a new lease of life. However, the party and its allies failed to maintain the momentum.

"I think they lost momentum during seat-sharing talks as the coalition was unhappy. The BJP and NDA did look scared, but ultimately, SIR couldn't become an electoral issue. However, the protest by civil society did force the ECI to accept many documents it was initially refusing," said Hemant Kumar, a Patna-based journalist.





DH ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

'Tiger Zinda Hai': Nitish roars back for 5th term

Never write off the JD(U) leader, Bihar just didn't. From 'Palturam' to 'Sushasan Babu', he is the comeback king who refuses to fade

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Nitish Kumar will turn 75 on March 1, 2026 — almost the same number of seats his party won on Friday while contesting 101 constituencies. It's a curious symmetry for a man long mocked by rivals as 'Palturam' for his political somersaults.

But on Friday, Bihar's longest-serving chief minister also showed why his supporters call him Sushasan Babu, the leader who restored order in a lawless state and put Bihar on a development track.

Few know that Nitish, an electrical engineer from Bihar College of Engineering (now NIT Patna), loves to swim against the current.

Sample this: In the 1977 post-Emergency wave, when all his Socialist contemporaries — Lalu Prasad, Ram Vilas Paswan and others — swept to victory, Nitish lost.

But in 1985, amid a sympathy wave following Indira Gandhi's assassination, he won his first Assembly election from Harnaut, even as many Janata stalwarts fell.

"He has an incredible quality of resilience," recalls a senior IAS officer who worked closely with him. "When he formed the Samata Party along with George Fernandes after severing ties with Lalu, his outfit contested the 1995 election, but won merely seven seats out of 324 constituencies in undivided Bihar. Everyone wrote him off as no match to Lalu, who had just secured his biggest mandate. Ten years later, it was Nitish who unseated Lalu to become the chief minister, and has remained virtually irreplaceable for over two decades."

History shows Nitish bounces back each time critics claim he is finished.

Ahead of the 2010 Assembly polls, he famously cancelled a dinner for the BJP after objecting to a Narendra Modi advertisement on flood relief. Modi was then Gujarat CM, while Nitish ruled Bihar in alliance with the BJP.

Commentators called it political suicide driven by jealousy and warned that he would pay the price in the polls. But when the results came, the NDA swept 206 of 243 seats — a rare four-fifths majority in the Assembly.

Similarly, before the 2025 election, Prashant Kishor, once Nitish's political aide, declared Nitish would never become CM again and vowed to quit politics if the JD(U) crossed 25 seats.

Today, that prediction lies in shambles. Nitish has scripted a fifth consecutive term, an unprecedented feat in Bihar's political history.

So the posters in Patna proclaiming 'Tiger Zinda Hai' aren't exaggeration. Nitish may not be Salman Khan, but in Bihar's political universe, he remains its enduring superstar.

IN BRIEF

Granddaughter of Karpoori finishes 4th

RJD candidate Ranvijay Sahu won from Morwa seat in the Bihar assembly polls, defeating his nearest JD(U) rival Vidya Sagar Singh Nishad by 8,671 votes, the EC said. Socialist icon and Bharat Ratna awardee Karpoori Thakur's granddaughter Jagriti, who contested the seat on a Jan Suraaj Party ticket, was at the fourth slot, bagging only 4,131 votes. Karpoori Thakur was also a two-time chief minister of Bihar. Sahu polled 77,770 votes while the JD(U) nominee secured 69,099 votes. Independent candidate

BJP workers celebrate NDA's win in Punjab's Amritsar. PTI

BJP, JD(U) register hike in vote share

The BJP and JD(U) improved their vote share in the Bihar polls despite contesting less number of seats this time, signalling a better booth-level coordination and resistance to incumbency among voters. The BJP's vote share rose to 20.07% from 19.46 % in 2020, even as it contested 101 seats in these elections compared to 110 constituencies in the last polls, according to EC data. Its ally JD(U) recorded one of the most notable gains in this election, with its vote share jumping to 19.26 % from 15.39 % in 2020. The party also contested 101 seats this time, as against the 115 seats in the last elections, the EC said. The RJD, which contested 141 seats, secured 23 % but registered a slight dip from its 23.11 % share in the previous elections.

Most exit polls get direction right but scale wrong

NEW DELHI, PTI: Most exit polls got the direction of the Bihar Assembly polls right but could not predict its scale with only one calling the results correctly for the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan.

The little-known 'Poll Diary' was the only pollster which had predicted that the NDA would win over 200 seats, while the Mahagathbandhan would fall below 50. It had predicted that the NDA would get between 184-209, and the Mahagathbandhan 32-49.

While the NDA won or was leading in over 200 seats, the Mahagathbandhan was poised to get around 35 seats.

Exit polls on Tuesday had predicted a return of the NDA government in Bihar with a big victory over the Mahagathbandhan, and a disappointing show by Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj in its debut outing.

The Axis My India exit poll predicted that the NDA would be ahead of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar but the RJD would emerge as the single-largest party. Axis My India predicted the NDA to win between 121-141 seats, and the Mahagathbandhan 98-118 seats.

It gave 0-2 seats to the Jan Suraaj.

Chirag emerges as NDA's young engine

As the heir who delivered, LJP(RV) chief has cemented his place in Bihar politics

LJP (RV) chief Chirag Paswan celebrates with his mother Reena Paswan after NDA's victory in Bihar polls, in Patna. PTI

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) rode the Nitish wave to win 19 out of 28 seats it contested, emerging as the fourth largest party in the Bihar Assembly.

From winning just one of the 137 seats his faction contested solo in 2020, Chirag has this time secured 29 seats within the NDA fold and is leading in 19.

At just 43, he has displayed a political dexterity uncommon for his age — rebuilding a new party from a faction of his father's party and steering it to rapid success.

This election is Chirag's first Assembly polls after he broke away from the parent LJP after a bitter succession battle. The parent party had contested on 137 seats in the 2020 Bihar polls, winning only one seat, but incurred heavy losses to the JD(U).

When the party fractured, Chirag walked out to form the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) party. With a new symbol, his first outing was in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections when his strike rate was an impressive 100% — he won on all the five seats it contested.

Inheritor of Paswan vote

Veteran journalist and political analyst Radhika Ramaseshan says Chirag has now firmly positioned himself as the inheritor of the Paswan vote — and, increasingly, as an acceptable figure among Bihar's Dalits, who constitute nearly 20% of the electorate. "The BJP targets dynastic politics in the Opposition, but in Chirag we see the sole inheritor of Ram Vilas Paswan's legacy. His uncle is nowhere in the picture now. And unlike Tejashwi Yadav, he has done exceptionally well this term," she said.

One of Chirag's winning traits has been his manoeuvrability — a characteristic that ensured his father was never out of power.

After the party split in 2021, the BJP put its trust in his uncle Pashupati Paras, making him a Cabinet minister with the food processing portfolio, which Chirag currently holds. Chirag faced humiliation when he was ousted from the 12, Janpath Road residence his father occupied since 1990.

But he stuck to his public loyalty to Narendra Modi, famously calling himself the Prime Minister's 'Hanuman'. That loyalty paid off: Chirag was inducted into the Union Cabinet this term, not his uncle — whose new party has failed to make an impact.

Ramaseshan says that despite allegations that the BJP used Chirag to cut into the JD(U)'s votes, the NDA has worked like a cohesive unit. "And without doubt, Chirag is now an important wheel of the NDA locomotive."

Not with a bang but a whimper: People forsake Jan Suraaj

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor proved to be the biggest non-story of the Bihar Assembly election.

His high-decibel tech-savvy campaign failed to cut much ice with the electorate as his Jan Suraaj Party, which contested 238 out of the total 243 seats, could not open its account.

In fact, the majority of his candidates lost their deposits. Additionally, his party did not even feature in the vote-share graph issued by the Election Commission (EC).

Candidates lose their security deposits if they fail to secure more than one-sixth of the total valid votes polled in their constituency.

In many seats, Jan Suraaj Party candidates received fewer votes than the NOTA (None of the Above) option. Its overall vote share ended up at just around 2%.

During the election campaign, Prashant often maintained that his party would either perform exceptionally well by winning over 150 seats or end in a debacle.

"*Arsh par ya farsh par* (At the zenith or on the ground" was a quote he often put out on the campaign trail.

The election results clearly showed that the people of Bihar had effectively brought his political ambitions to the *farsh* (floor).

So, why really did the master political strategist fail so miserably in his mass politics venture? In the words of someone from his own party, he failed to understand the people of Bihar.

Kishor's campaign failed to cut much ice with the electorate . PTI FILE

Lack of understanding?

"We have been saying from the start that we are trying to bring new politics to Bihar. It is tough to take this politics to the people of Bihar," Jan Suraaj Party Bihar president Manoj Bharti told PTI.

"Prashant Kishor always said if people understood what we were saying, we would be on top; if they didn't, we would fail," he added.

"These trends show that people have failed to understand us, and we also failed to make them understand," he continued.

Party spokesperson Pavan K Varma said it would undertake a "serious review" of its performance in the Bihar elections.

BJP senses momentum in Kerala after Bihar win

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Bihar Assembly election results have given the Kerala BJP a morale boost just as campaigning for the state's local body polls intensifies. The party, now under the leadership of Rajeev Chandrasekhar, is making an all-out push to expand its footprint.

The local body polls assumes significance, with the Assembly elections following soon after and trends in grassroots polls often shaping the larger mandate.

As BJP workers in Kerala celebrated the Bihar win with sweets and confidence of a repeat performance.

"The Bihar outcome will strengthen the BJP's narrative that Congress is becoming irrelevant both nationally and regionally. This can influence voters who are undecided about shifting their loyalty from the Congress to the BJP," political analyst and Kerala University professor CA Josukutty told *DH*.

Kerala's local body polls will be held on December 9 and 11, and campaigning is already in full swing. At present, the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) enjoys a majority in 673 local bodies, including five of the six corporations. The Congress-led UDF is in power in 468 local bodies, while the BJP-led NDA controls 25.

WIN & BLAME

It is a massive mandate and the poll results show it's a tsunami. People of Bihar have expressed unwavering faith and love for Modi and also put a seal on the progress that the country is making under his leadership.

J P Nadda
BJP national president

Nobody expected such a massive one-sided mandate - not even those who have won. This time, we must acknowledge that this victory belongs to Nitish Kumar.

Supriya Sule
NCP (SP) leader

I.N.D.I.A should do serious introspection on what happened. Because what we witnessed during the campaign was a different scene. We could see huge public response, young people of Bihar looking for a change.

D Raja
CPI General Secretary

A JD(U) supporter celebrates the party's victory at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Mangal raj over jungle raj: Shiv Sena

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, which is a key constituent of the BJP-led NDA, said the victory of the ruling alliance in Bihar reflects that people chose mangal raj over jungle raj.

"The historic mandate in Bihar is an emphatic vote of confidence in the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. The people of Bihar have delivered a clear and unmistakable message—they have rejected the forces of corruption, chaos and jungle raj, and chosen the path of mangal Raj, development and dignity," said Kalyan MP Dr Shrikant Shinde.

"The Congress slipping to single digits exposes a simple truth that Rahul Gandhi commands zero political credibility in one of India's most politically aware states. Their caste card and fabricated narratives—everything has collapsed," he said.

"Bihar's poor, backward communities, women, youth, farmers and workers have overwhelmingly backed the NDA. This mandate is a ringing endorsement of Nitish Kumar's clean governance, stability and people-first approach," said Dr Shinde.

Bihar done, Owaisi plans UP outreach

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

To the dismay of the I.N.D.I.A bloc, Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) held on to its support base in the Muslim-dominated districts of Bihar's Seemanchal region to retain five seats and damage the Opposition coalition's prospects in another dozen.

"It shows that our work and efforts for the development of one of the most backward regions have been recognised by the people," Owaisi told *DH*.

The Hyderabad MP's party inflicted maximum losses to the RJD-Congress combine in the four districts — Kishanganj, Araria, Katihar, and Purnia — bordering Nepal and West Bengal, which have more than 35% Muslim population.

Of the 24 seats here, considered a Congress-RJD stronghold, the NDA — the BJP-JD(U)-LJP(RV) combine — managed to win as many as 15 seats as the AIMIM turned it into a triangular contest in many constituencies.

Top Congress and RJD leaders had to bite the dust in Seemanchal. In Kadwa, Congress Legislature Party leader Shakeel Ahmed Khan lost as the AIMIM candidate polled more than 10,000 votes.

The AIMIM also won in Amour in the Purnia district, pushing the Congress to the third spot.

The Kasba seat in Purnia was won by the NDA, even as Owaisi's candidate polled 35,000 votes.

"We have got support from all communities. Women from an RJD-affiliated family that had seen infant mortality pressed the kite button as we sought to raise issues that affected the people," said Owaisi.

During the campaign, the I.N.D.I.A bloc had accused the AIMIM leader of working as an "agent" of the BJP to split the minority votes in Bihar.

On his next stop, Owaisi said the performance in Bihar would encourage the party to work hard in Uttar Pradesh, which goes to the polls in 2027.

FISCAL STRAIN

Welfare push leads to big win, but bigger bill awaits

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In the run-up to the elections, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar rolled out a flurry of welfare announcements — from free electricity to cash transfers for women, farmers and students, more than doubling the social security pension, and promising one crore jobs.

These promises were woven into the NDA manifesto released just days before the two-phase polling, and appear to have paid off with a resounding mandate.

"The people of the state have expressed their confidence in our government by giving us a massive majority. For this, I bow to all the esteemed voters of the state, and express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks," Nitish said in a post on X.

In the 243-member Assembly, the ruling alliance has won over 200 seats. Nitish's JD(U) has nearly doubled its tally from 43 seats in 2020 to 84 while the BJP has emerged as the single-largest party.

Nitish, one of the longest-serving chief ministers in the country, has long been known for pragmatic politics and had previously avoided large-scale freebies. But facing anti-incumbency and criticism over unemployment and uneven socio-economic progress, he unveiled a series of populist schemes.

The schemes include up to 125 units of free electricity to households, up to Rs 2 lakh for women under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, higher social security pension, construction of 50 lakh new houses, up to Rs 5 lakh free medical treatment and Rs 1 lakh crore investment to promote industrialisation. The NDA has promised to increase cash transfer to farmers under the PM KISAN scheme by Rs 3,000 to Rs 9,000 per year.

Several schemes were rolled out just days before the election announcement. Under the Mahila Rozgar Yojana alone, Rs 10,000 each was transferred to the accounts of over 1.3 crore women — with part of the disbursal reportedly happening even after the poll dates were declared on October 6.

While these welfare sops have yielded rich political dividends for the ruling alliance, they are expected to exert significant fiscal pressure on the state, potentially affecting its ability to fund long-term infrastructure projects.

Bihar remains heavily dependent on central transfers, with nearly three-fourths of its revenue receipts coming from devolution and grants from the Union government.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Big sweep: In Bihar, a vote for continuity

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has won a landslide victory in the Bihar assembly election, securing more than four-fifths of the 243 seats and sealing another term for a Nitish Kumar-led government. This is an assertion of dominance that exceeds the coalition's expectations, decimating the Mahagathbandhan anchored by the RJD and the Congress. For the two key NDA forces, the result echoes 2020 – the BJP has emerged as the largest party; it had more seats than partner JD(U) in the last assembly election, but Nitish Kumar dominated the alliance as its undisputed leader. Though he is set to continue as Chief Minister, a shift in power equations within the coalition is likely, given the BJP's surge and the veteran leader's declining health. The result carries significance at the Centre, where the JD(U) backs the Narendra Modi government; it will also drive the NDA's poll machine as it enters campaign mode for elections in other states.

By projecting Nitish – *sushasan babu* and the state's most popular leader – as the face of the campaign, the NDA played its cards right. Incumbency, it appears, has turned out to be an advantage for the man who enters his fifth successive term at the helm. The high voter turnout, particularly of women, is likely to have helped the NDA. Pro-women schemes and the government's controversial cash transfers to over 1.5 crore women may have been key factors, if elections in other states are any indication. Welfare outreach, infrastructure development, and the assurance of personal safety may also have appealed to the voter. The NDA had in place an effective caste combination with the right balance of upper, backward, and extremely backward castes, and the Dalits. While all the NDA constituents, including the minor parties, worked on a shared cause, the Mahagathbandhan faltered in presenting a united front.

The Nitish brand is intact, as welfare outreach and coalition unity power NDA to a landslide win

The distribution of vote shares and the impact of smaller parties such as the AIMIM and CPI(ML) may hold the psephologist's interest. But the pitiable performance of the opposition raises serious questions about the nature and themes of its campaign, its electoral strategies, and its unity. Internal friction over Tejashwi Yadav's leadership was evident even in the last leg of the campaign. There were 12 "friendly" contests among the constituents. It is doubtful if the promises made by the alliance were convincing enough to move the electorate, or its electoral planks striking enough for the voter to care. The opposition's weaknesses and the incumbent's organisational muscle and strong poll messaging, together, appear to have consolidated a vote for continuity in governance.

IT Policy targets broader growth base

Karnataka's newly announced IT Policy marks a significant milestone in the state's economic strategy, combining ambition with a welcome commitment to dispersing growth beyond Bengaluru's confines. At a time when the global technology landscape is evolving rapidly, the policy outlines a clear roadmap to consolidate Karnataka's leadership in IT and emerging technologies, while also addressing long-standing regional imbalances. The policy sets ambitious growth targets. According to IT Minister Priyank Kharge, the state aims to almost triple software exports from the current Rs 4.09 lakh crore to Rs 11.5 lakh crore by 2030. It aims to generate over 90 lakh direct and indirect jobs and increase the IT sector's contribution to the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) from 26% to 36%. Backed by a financial outlay of Rs 967.12 crore for incentives, concessions, and enabling programmes, the framework signals seriousness of purpose rather than mere intent.

Its strongest feature, however, is the push to take the IT ecosystem "Beyond Bengaluru". Seven tier-2 and tier-3 cities – Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, Tumakuru, Kalaburagi, and Shivamogga – have been identified as regional technology hubs. To attract companies to these locations, the policy offers targeted incentives including recruitment assistance, talent-relocation reimbursements, and operational concessions. This decentralisation thrust is essential for balanced regional development and could relieve the urban pressures on Bengaluru. Equally significant is the policy's focus on next-generation technologies by declaring the state an "AI-native destination". It aims to anchor investments in Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Quantum Computing, Green IT, and advanced cybersecurity. The policy also emphasises workforce and talent development: the IT Talent Return Programme seeks to attract mid-career Indian professionals back to the state, while the Women in Global Tech Missions Fellowship proposes to train 1,000 women in leadership and advanced technologies. Incentives for faculty upskilling strengthen the talent pipeline by aligning academia with evolving industry needs.

Growth beyond Bengaluru is welcome, but must be backed with a stronger manufacturing ecosystem

However, even as the policy rightly reinforces Karnataka's technology leadership, the state must not lose sight of the need for a balanced economic structure. Services, particularly IT/ITeS, dominate the GSVA, while manufacturing accounts for a relatively modest share. For growth to be inclusive, regionally equitable, and resilient, Karnataka must complement its IT prowess with a stronger manufacturing base. While the new IT Policy is a step in the right direction, the state's overall progress will ultimately depend on how effectively it harmonises the drivers of its economy – technology-driven services, engineering-led manufacturing, and agriculture, to create widespread and sustainable prosperity.

LABS OF MAYHEM

Terror finds a new face on the white-collar recruit

Radicalisation of skilled professionals ensures easier access to resources, evades traditional surveillance

ZULFIKAR MAJID

The uncovering of a terror module, allegedly driven by doctors and other educated professionals, has opened an unsettling chapter in India's security landscape. The arrests of two Kashmiri doctors, the disappearance of another academic who taught at a private university in Faridabad, and the questioning of more medics – including a female postgraduate – point to a shift that investigators say is increasingly visible across recent cases: radicalisation within educated, urban professional circles.

The November 10 car explosion outside Delhi's Red Fort, which killed at least 12 people according to official tallies, signalled more than a high-impact attack on a symbolic site. Barely a few hours earlier, investigators recovered nearly 2,500-2,900 kilograms of suspected explosive material from the premises of a Faridabad hospital, one of the largest such hauls in the NCR in recent years, according to police briefings. But what has alarmed agencies more is the profile of the perpetrators.

Two doctors from Kashmir are in custody; another man, identified as a doctor, had been missing since the blast and is feared to have been in the car when it detonated. Investigators say DNA recovered from the blast site matched the family samples of Dr Umar Nabi, whom they have identified as the person believed to have been in the white Hyundai i20 that exploded near the Red Fort. Another suspect doctor – previously terminated by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in earlier security crackdowns – had later been employed at a private university in Faridabad and disappeared in the days following the explosion, according to investigators who have questioned colleagues and contacts.

This pattern has reinforced a growing assessment inside India's security agencies: that some external handlers and transnational radical forces are increasingly targeting educated professionals who possess technical expertise, mobility, and institutional access that traditional militant recruits rarely have. These networks, officers say, operate partly through encrypted communication platforms and partly through closed ideological circles in which radicalisation is gradual, relational, and often invisible until too late.

For decades, India's most recognisable terror threats involved infiltration, local militant recruitment, and weapons smuggling across the Line of Control. But sustained counter-terror operations, tighter border surveillance, and a dramatic decline in local militant recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir have squeezed the traditional ecosystem.

What is emerging in its place is subtler: professionally qualified individuals embedded in hospitals, universities, and laboratories; individuals who move freely between states; individuals whose digital literacy allows them to obscure communications and finances. Security officials point out that this trend echoes earlier waves of radicalisation seen in the country – from tech professionals who were linked to the Indian Mujahideen in the 2000s to ISIS-inspired modules busted in Kerala, Maharashtra, and Telangana since 2016, where dentists, pharmacists, engineers, and IT workers played active roles.

The Red Fort module, investigators say, fits a similar pattern, but with a higher degree of coordination, more significant explosive capability, and wider geographic dispersion.

The invisible frontlines

White-collar radicalisation is not easily captured by traditional profiling methods. A doctor or university lecturer with no criminal record, good academic credentials, and stable employment does not attract the same surveillance flags as an armed militant or known recruiter. Their access to chemicals, labs, logistics networks, and institutional confidentiality makes them harder to detect.

Moreover, these individuals often radicalise through digital pathways: encrypted chat-rooms, ideological mentorship by overseas actors, and curated grievance-based propaganda. Financial transactions use digital rails, micro-donations, or anonymous wallets, complicating detection.

This decentralised, professionalised ecosystem forces agencies to strengthen cyber forensics, improve inter-state coordination, and work more closely with academic and medical institutions. Recognising early signs of ideological drift – subtle behavioural shifts, unexplained foreign contacts, or concealed travel – becomes as important as traditional counter-terror operations.

Investigators have found conversations in several recent cases referring to concepts such as "scientific jihad" – the notion that professional skills can be repurposed into mechanisms of violence. Experts say this psychological framing is part of a broader pattern of online radicalisation, where alienated professionals are told their education is a weapon and their intellect a duty.

The danger, analysts warn, lies in the moral inversion: when a doctor trained to heal or an academic trained to question begins to rationalise destruction as "greater purpose".

The Red Fort blast is not merely a security breach; it is a signal of a shifting battlefield. Terror networks, guided by external handlers rather than local militant structures, are increasingly exploiting educated Indians who can operate invisibly within cities.

India's response must therefore be twofold: first, strengthening digital surveillance, financial tracking, and institutional alertness; second, expanding deradicalisation frameworks into colleges, universities, and professional associations, where ideological drift often begins unnoticed.

In an era when the next terror operative could be a doctor performing night duty or a researcher working in a lab, India must protect not just its borders but its intellectual and institutional spaces.

The Red Fort blast shows that the new jihad does not emerge from forests or mountain hideouts; it walks in white coats, blends into classrooms, and hides in encrypted channels. The frontline has shifted, and the country must adjust swiftly.

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A fallen tree and blinded windows

The giant collapsed but brought old melodies to mind

AMBUJA NARAYAN

If only trees had legs to migrate to safer places, they would surely flee urban Bengaluru to grow and find peace elsewhere. Trees grow silently; nobody hears them. But when they fall, everyone hears the thud.

They stay firmly rooted, grounding us in turn and adding new colours each season and drawing deeply from groundwaterbelow. The roadside trees of Bengaluru strive to stand tall and proud, though they are uncared for, abused, ill-treated and defaced. Nails are mercilessly driven into their trunks with cables wound tightly around them as if to suffocate them from top to bottom. In our ever-expanding metros, their end is only a matter of time.

Recently, a 50-year-old *uchekai mara* (Spathodea campanulata) crashed in between two tall apartment blocks on a narrow road. The mammoth tree lay sprawled like a wounded soldier. Its branches pierced windows and shattered glass, crashed into a compound wall, snapped a web of cables – TV and electric alike – and brought traffic to a halt. Birds quickly found refuge on neighbouring trees, squirrels darted about in search of scattered seeds, and sleepy residents who missed the midnight drama stared aghast from their balconies the next morning.

Fortunately, the cars parked inside the apartment premises were spared, and the night watchman had just stepped outside for a break. Oh, what a fall it was! Frantic calls to *namma* Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the new avatar of the BBMP, brought the usual slow response, leading to traffic snarls and further inconvenience.

The debris lay uncleared for days on the pavement – no-man's land as usual – hindering pedestrians and senior citizens.

The fall of the mighty tree has left a gaping void in the neighbourhood, exposing balconies directly to the road across the narrow lane. Windows that once hid behind the tree's generous cover now sit behind drawn blinds. The mighty tree is sorely missed – for its cool breeze, its colourful presence and the comfort it offered through the year. Such is the fate of a tree in our fast-growing metros.

'Uchekai tree' – named for its ampule-shaped buds filled with water that children and adults alike delight in squirting – is the local name for African tulip or Nandi flame. Also known as '*neerukai mara*' in Kannada, it blooms resplendently every August-September. Clusters of golden-green water buds with lush leaves unfurl into bright, showy orange-yellow flowers. When undisturbed, Spathodea trees can grow up to 80 feet. Fast-growing and generous, they offer water-filled buds to birds and bees. As children, we played with its kidney-shaped buds, squirting water at one another as if it were Holi. The orange flowers live their brief lives and fall; open buds droop within a couple of days.

Looking out from our balcony now, I can't help humming Kishore Kumar's classics from *Padosan*: *Mere saamne wali khidki mein*... and *Ek chaturanaar*...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The opposition must present constructive vision

The landslide victory of the NDA in the Bihar elections is a sweeping endorsement of the model delivered by PM Narendra Modi and CM Nitish Kumar. Their steady focus on development, welfare outreach, economic empowerment, national security, and administrative stability has earned the trust of Bihar's voters once again. The reform-driven approach, combined with an emphasis on law and order, women-centric schemes, and grassroots delivery, appears to have created a compelling narrative of progress that resonated across communities. In sharp contrast, the Mahagathbandhan, particularly the Congress, faced a humiliating defeat, largely due to its persistent negative politics. Rahul Gandhi's repetitive allegations, including the "vote chori" rhetoric, failed to find credibility among the electorate. The voters decisively rejected such obstructionist politics. It is a reminder to the Mahagathbandhan — especially the Congress and Rahul Gandhi — to abandon negativity and adopt a constructive, future-focused political approach.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Address inequality

Apropos 'Bracing for the inequality emergency' (Nov 14), it is clear that India, along with the rest of the world, is heading towards a breaking point in the steady collapse of economic equality. This has already had adverse effects on global economic balance and, worse, on the foundations of democracy that govern the rights of citizens in countries like India. The consistent disintegration of democratic power of the people cannot be separated from rising inequality. For India to recover from the consequences of such extreme inequality, political leaders must discard prejudices and work towards taking action to introduce stricter policies that would allow for an equitable distribution of resources. It is time for India to recognise the inequality emergency before it is too late.
Meghana Sudeesh, Bengaluru

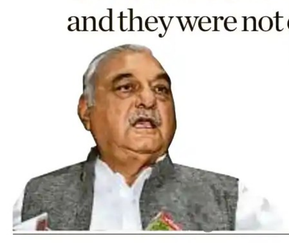
Prioritise safety

Apropos 'Stray dogs: SC skips compassion question' (Nov 13), the Supreme Court's abrupt reversal, especially on the question of releasing stray dogs back into the areas from where they were picked up, breaks from the balanced approach of the August 22 order and threatens to reignite passions on a deeply polarising issue. It is in conflict with existing animal birth control rules that mandate a 'sterilise-vaccinate-return' approach, considered a humane method for long-term population control and rabies eradication. The order also fails to take into account the immense logistical challenges of building shelters for stray dogs. Compassion and safety must go hand in hand.
S S Paul, Nadia (WB)

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

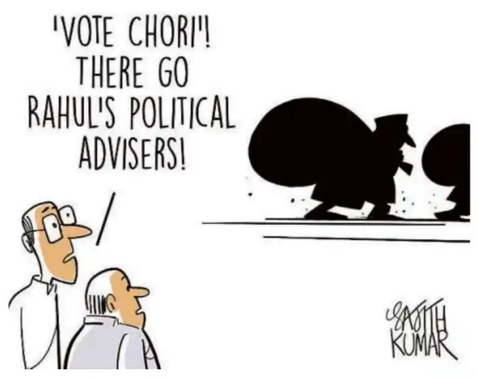
Looking at the people's response and the crowds gathered, it was clear that the Mahagathbhandan government would be formed. But now the results have come in, and they were not expected. The party will investigate why this happened. And then we will give a report.



Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Congress leader

If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got.
Tony Robbins

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Bengaluru needs a law on potholes

Deadlines have not worked. It is time to make accountability and fair compensation legal obligations

SNEHA PRIYA YANAPPA

Bengaluru's never-ending pothole menace continues to be in the spotlight. Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah had set October 31 as the deadline for contractors to fill the potholes in the city. However, tragic road incidents continue to haunt the city, as lives are lost and work remains to be done. These are not freak accidents; these 'death traps' are symptoms of a chronic governance failure. Does it always take a death for the government to act?

Court directions to municipal corporations on potholes are nothing new. The same issue is flagged, the same orders are passed, and yet, the same violations continue. In Bengaluru, this has been a regular cycle. The monsoons expose the abysmal quality of road infrastructure and institutional apathy. The Karnataka High Court has, time and again, underscored that the maintenance of roads is not merely an administrative function of the BBMP, but a legal and constitutional obligation.

In multiple cases, the High Court has held the BBMP responsible for accidents caused by potholes. The Court went a step further – stating that citizens can claim compensation for deaths or injuries caused by poorly maintained roads, rejecting BBMP's defence of "sovereign immunity". When the BBMP approached the Supreme Court claiming that granting compensation would result in a financial burden, the Court came down heavily on the corporation, stating that broken footpaths and potholes on the streets expose citizens to danger, which is a violation of their right to live a meaningful and dignified life, as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Karnataka HC recently directed the BBMP to submit an affidavit disclosing its latest position in terms of the steps taken to deal with the issue of potholes.

Although the courts have ordered compensation in individual cases, there is still no statutory framework that guarantees compensation for pothole-related deaths or injuries. The BBMP once stated intent to make claiming compensation "easier," but no sustained system exists. Without clear guidelines or a statutory fund, compensation remains uncertain, arbitrary, and inaccessible.

Under the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, municipal corporations have a statutory obligation to construct, maintain, alter, and improve roads and footpaths. For Bengaluru, the same obligation can be found in the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024. This statutory obligation creates a corresponding right in favour of citizens. The GBA was constituted as the apex metropolitan body for the Greater Bengaluru region, overseeing multiple city corporations. The authority was envisioned as a supervisory, planning, and coordinating body across the corporations. Who is then responsible for fixing the potholes? The GBA? The corporation? Or both? In fact, the formation of the GBA has only enlarged the already existing legal vacuum.

A new code of responsibility

In December 2019, the BBMP announced a compensation of up to Rs 3 lakh to victims of serious accidents caused by potholes and Rs 15,000 for minor injuries. There is not much clarity on the process and manner to seek such compensation.

The Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, needs to be amended to ensure operational accountability for road maintenance and safety. The government should establish a dedicated compensation scheme for victims of accidents caused by potholes with a clear and time-bound procedure to secure claims. The GBA may create a Compensation Fund, which could draw from a cess levied on road works and related infrastructure projects.

The corporations should be empowered to initiate action against officials for non-compliance or violations of road maintenance obligations. To ensure accountability, the relevant officials must be mandated to submit periodic reports detailing the number of potholes identified, repaired, and fixed within specified timelines.

Effective coordination between different agencies undertaking road restoration or excavation work is also essential. The GBA may be granted statutory powers under the Act to levy penalties on agencies or contractors that fail to restore roads to their original condition. At the local level, ward committees should be tasked with conducting regular inspections of roads to identify areas requiring repair. They may be mandated to submit monthly reports on the condition of roads within their jurisdiction to the respective Corporation Commissioner, ensuring prompt remedial action.

The GBA can collaborate with hospitals in the city to map accident spots and have victims of bad roads and potholes identify vulnerable areas. Bengaluru must reclaim its streets – not just from traffic but from apathy – by adopting a clear, codified system of responsibility and redress.

(The writer leads the Karnataka team of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy. She works on urban governance, education, and data and technology regulations)

Red sanders and worldwide web of log loot

S N V SUDHIR
DH NEWS SERVICE

In the rocky Seshachalam Hills near Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh grows a tree found nowhere else in the world – red sanders, locally known as Rakta Chandanam or Yerra Chandanam. The sunlight makes its deep red wood glow, and ancient lore claims its colour comes from the blood of Lord Sri Venkateswara, making it sacred to many.

During a recent visit to Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan invoked the legend, stressing the spiritual significance and the protection of red sanders, which found itself at the centre of a multi-billion-dollar global smuggling industry.

The story of red sanders intertwines the story of spirituality, culture, and crime. The Tollywood film series, Pushpa, inspired by the smuggling trade, earned around Rs 2,000 crore worldwide. But, beyond cinematic glamour, lies a harsh reality of forests being systematically plundered to supply the international clients willing to pay extraordinary sums for this rare timber.

Native to the five Andhra Pradesh districts of Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nellore, and Prakasam, the species is also cultivated in government and private plantations across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Kerala. Red sanders came under the spotlight in the 1960s when Japanese instrument makers discovered its exceptional qualities for crafting the shamisen. Chinese furniture makers later embraced the wood for premium luxury pieces, elevating it to one of China's most sought-after timbers. Rising incomes in East Asia raised the demand sharply, transforming the tree into a global commodity. It is now also used in decorative art in the Middle East and in making handcrafted artefacts in the United States.

The red sanders smugglers have built an intricate global web. According to TRAFFIC, an international wildlife trade monitoring network, red sanders is illegally moved from India into China and Japan through Manipur and Mizoram, and neighbouring Myanmar, as well as through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and neighbouring Nepal. Some consignments travel by sea to Malaysia and Singapore, while others move westward through Mumbai and Mundra ports to the UAE. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has identified additional routes through Sri Lanka and the Middle East. Several Chinese nationals have been arrested carrying smaller quantities through Chennai and Cochin airports.

While legal use of the wood includes making furniture, instruments, and dyes, the rumours of special industrial applications persist. "Some reports claim red sanders extracts might absorb nuclear radiation, though scientific proof is absent," a Tirupati-based ecologist told *DH*. "Yet arrests linked to this belief suggest some buyers attribute unique properties to it."

Despite growing awareness, officials admit the full scale of the trade remains poorly understood, with little reliable data on final destinations or value appreciation across its seven-layer illegal supply chain – from coolies who fell the trees to international smugglers at the top.

In the black market, red sanders fetch enormous sums. International prices range from Rs 50 lakh to over Rs 2 crore per tonne, depending on quality, while domestic black-market rates hover between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 30 lakh.

The violence associated with the trade has often proved deadly. On April 7, 2015, as many as 20 alleged woodcutters hired by smugglers were killed in near-simultaneous encounters in the Seshachalam forests. Police said the men attacked them with stones and sickles, forcing them to open fire in self-defence.

To curb escalating smuggling, the Andhra Pradesh government set up the Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) in February 2015. With eight active teams based in Tirupati, Railway Koduru, Kadapa, and Sanipai, the task force is now preparing an action plan modelled on anti-Naxal operations. "We are working on a blueprint," RSASTF Superintendent of Police P. Srinivas told *DH*. "Once approvals come, we will launch the operation."

This year, the task force registered around 54 cases and arrested roughly 229 people, booking six under the Preventive Detention Act for the first time. Srinivas noted minimal local involvement, with smugglers bringing in labourers from Tamil Nadu to work deep inside forests.

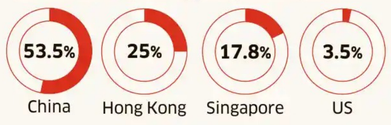
THE RAKTA CHANDANA FILES

- **Red Sanders** (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) is a slow-growing tree, endemic to the **Eastern Ghats**
- Listed under Schedule IV of The Wildlife Protection Act
- **IUCN status:** Endangered, Red List

- Its red heartwood accumulates heavy and **rare earth elements** and yields the dye santalin
- Import of red sanders to India is **prohibited**, while export is restricted

Smuggling of Red Sanders:

- CITES logged **28 Red Sanders** seizure/export cases from India (**2016-2020**), smuggling mainly to



- India reported **19,049 MT** exported, importing nations recorded **4,610 MT** plus minor sawn, transformed wood and products, showing major reporting discrepancies
- **2,60,000** seized red sanders logs, from nearly **1,30,000** felled trees, worth **Rs 5,000 crore**, are stored in the Andhra Pradesh forest department's godowns.
- **2014:** AP formed the Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force
- **2016:** The Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 2016, was strengthened

Actions against Red Sanders Smuggling (2015-2025)

April, 2015: 20 woodcutters from **Tamil Nadu** killed in an encounter with police during an operation against red sanders smuggling in **Seshachalam Hills**, Andhra Pradesh.

May, 2015: DRI seizes over 8 tonnes of red sanders at **Chennai Port**

2016: Police seize **37 MT**, worth over **Rs 75 crore**, and 108 vehicles, worth Rs 16.2 crore, apart from arresting **324 persons** only in Chittor, AP, in 2016

2018: DRI seizes 7 tonnes from a warehouse in Hyderabad

October, 2021: AP police arrest an international kingpin in Chittoor

November, 2021: DRI seizes **9.98 MT** of red sanders from ICD Piyala, **Haryana**, 12.16 MT from Nhava Sheva Port, **Mumbai**, and 12.03 MT from a vessel, which had left the port, but was recalled

December, 2021: DRI seizes **9.42 MT** from ICD Tughlakabad, Delhi.

- In **2020-21** and **2021-22**, DRI seizes **96** and **95 MT**, respectively, worth over **Rs 150 crore**
- **DRI seizes 110.26 MT** between November 2021 and September 2022

March, 2022: DRI seizes 12.20 MT from **Krishnapatnam**, AP, before being smuggled to Malaysia

- **11.7 MT** of red sanders seized at Mundra Port

May, 2022: DRI seizes 14.6 MT, worth over Rs 11.70 crore, from ICD **Sabarmati**, Ahmedabad, from an export consignment to Sharjah

Sept 16, 2022: DRI seizes 10.23 MT, worth **Rs 6 crore**, from ICD, Palwal, Haryana, from an export consignment to Singapore.

Nov 7, 2023: Police seize 275 red sanders logs worth Rs 4.4 crore from **Tirupati**, AP

July, 2024: DRI seized around 8 tonnes, worth over **Rs 7.9 crore**, in a multi-state operation

Jan 5, 2025: DRI seizes 5.2 tonnes, worth **Rs 5.5 crore**, at Paranur Checkpost in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu

Jan 22, 2025: 7 MT worth Rs 4.5 crore seized, three arrested in **Chittoor**, AP

Oct 7, 2025: Police seize 10 MT red sanders worth Rs 10 crore from **Tughlakabad** in Delhi.

Renewing Ruby Wood: Powered by people

Even as concerns over the illegal felling and smuggling of red sanders persist, Andhra Pradesh has stepped up long-term conservation measures for the species. A year after India's removal from the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the state is now working to position its red sanders conservation as a model for balancing ecological security with community livelihoods.

CITES took India out of the RST process for red sanders in November 2023. India had been under heightened international monitoring since 2004 because of widespread illegal logging and export of the high-value timber. The delisting came after India met the CITES requirements, including by amending the Wildlife Protection Act in 2022 to fully integrate the norms set by the global body into domestic law. This opened the door for legal overseas trade, enabling red sanders farmers and plantation growers to legitimately access global markets. This shift is expected to incentivise farmers to expand the cultivation of red sanders, also known as ruby wood, thereby increasing tree cover and reducing pressure on wild populations.

The Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) is working with universities, research institutes, and community groups and undertaking a series of ecological studies aimed at restoring the population diversity of red sanders across Kadapa, Chittoor, Kurnool, Prakasam, and Nellore districts.

"The APSBB, in collaboration with Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa, has launched ecological studies and field programmes focusing on ex-situ conservation, macro-propagation, and assessments of population structure and mycorrhizal associations of red sanders and associated tree species in the dry deciduous forests of the Eastern Ghats," APSBB chairman Neelayapalem Vijay Kumar told *DH*. "Scientists will collect seeds from elite trees and evaluate regeneration potential by studying seedlings, saplings, and mature trees – information essential for sustainable forest management. These projects aim to create a scientific baseline for restoration, ensuring both genetic diversity and sustainable yield."

The village-level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, maintain People's Biodiversity Registers and administer benefit-sharing mechanisms for biological resources. In red sanders zones, the BMCs serve as frontline monitors, reporting illegal felling, assisting in regeneration drives, and identifying degraded or suitable areas for plantation expansion. APSBB conducts training sessions for the BMC members, often linking them with universities and NGOs.

In March 2025, the National Biodiversity Authority approved an APSBB proposal to raise one lakh red sanders seedlings at a cost of Rs 2 crore over three years. The first instalment of Rs 82.77 lakh has already been released from the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) fund. Under the ABS, 5% of the sale value of cultivated red sanders is collected as a conservation contribution and redistributed among local communities, thereby creating incentives for sustainable harvesting and protection.

The APSBB is also developing collaborations for advanced genetic studies, GIS-based distribution mapping, and digital tracking of timber movement to curb smuggling networks, increase transparency, and authenticate legal trade channels. The National Expert Committee on Red Sanders has been reinstituted in September 2025 and is expected to refine trade norms and benefit-sharing frameworks as private and farmer-led exports grow.

S N V SUDHIR, DHNS

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Beautiful Northern Lights prove risky for satellites

Satellite operators and rocket companies are managing the effects of the geomagnetic storm, postponing a space launch, writes Katrina Miller

NASA seemed ready on Wednesday to loft its latest robotic mission to Mars, ESCAPADE, into space aboard a rocket from the company Blue Origin.

But the launch was scrubbed on account of "highly elevated solar activity and its potential effects" on the spacecraft, the company said in a post on social media.

On Tuesday, two blasts of solar material, made by a pair of powerful coronal mass ejections — giant explosions from the sun's surface that spew streams of charged particles — crashed into the Earth's magnetic bubble in space. They caused gorgeous light shows in night skies that may again be visible Wednesday night into Thursday morning. But these solar storms and ongoing activity also necessitated careful monitoring of the fleets of satellites in orbit and those headed there.

"History points to these compound CMEs and overlapping storms as being the most significant for space weather effects," said Daniel Baker, a scientist at the University of Colorado Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. "That's what we're in the throes of right now."

Activity from the sun, which ebbs and flows on an 11-year cycle, reached a peak last year. According to Baker, the phase after a peak is often when flares, explosions and other solar activity become most prevalent. When directed toward Earth, this activity can cause disturbances — a geomagnetic storm — in the planet's magnetosphere, the protective bubble that shields us from harmful solar radiation.

Three coronal mass ejections fired off the sun on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Two of those compounded and hit Earth's atmosphere on Tuesday, creating a risk of radio blackouts, power grid disruptions, and aircraft reroutes.

Scores of satellites circling the Earth were also threatened. But the amount of risk a satellite experiences during a geomagnetic storm depends on the altitude of the satellite's orbit, according to Kerri Cahoy, an engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Satellites in low-Earth orbit can experience anomalies, such as signal dropouts and reboots. But molecules in Earth's atmosphere and the strength of its magnetic field can offer some natural protection for satellites closest to the ground, Cahoy said.

At higher altitudes, where Earth's magnetic field is weaker (and where GPS and many weather satellites are located), spacecraft experience much higher doses of radiation during geomagnetic storms. While those storms are happening, Earth's magnetosphere can get peeled back, leaving satellites more exposed to the effects of space weather.

"But they're built for it," Cahoy said, because spacecraft orbiting that high are usually designed with special shielding that makes them more tolerant of solar radiation. "Nobody sends a satellite up there without it," she added.

In the past, most satellites were "radiation-hardened," Baker said. But today, he said, many commercial satellites in low-Earth orbit are not, making them more susceptible to loss of function or communication disruptions.

Coronal mass ejections also make the air warmer and cause Earth's atmosphere to temporarily puff out, potentially introducing drag to parts of low-Earth orbit. Last year, a geomagnetic storm caused some NASA satellites to drop by more than 1,000 feet. In 2022, a solar outburst knocked out of commission 40 newly launched SpaceX satellites.

Many satellites are designed to operate at a specific height above the ground, so drops in altitude can hinder operations. Altered satellite trajectories to counter drag can also increase the chances of spacecraft collisions, either with one of the thousands of satellites in orbit or the millions of bits of space debris floating around.

When it came to the decision not to launch NASA's ESCAPADE mission, Rob Lillis, the mission's principal investigator, said they would have launched had the solar activity ended on Tuesday. But Wednesday morning, they received a forecast that another coronal mass ejection would hit just as the mission's two orbiters were to be released from the rocket.

At that time, "some really critical things have to happen," Lillis said. The radiation could have crashed the spacecraft's computers, preventing the deployment of the solar arrays needed to generate power. "We didn't want to risk doing that in an environment that was even more dangerous," he said.

Baker said the possibility of a collision is another reason it makes sense to scrub a rocket launch.

During geomagnetic storms, NASA and other agencies that track satellites and space debris lose timely information that has to be reacquired before it is safe for any spacecraft to take off, Baker said.

"The chances of a collision with a launch go up quite considerably," he said. "And the last thing you want to do is run into something."

The scheduled launch on Thursday of a satellite operated by Viasat, a global communications company, is still on — for now. But in a statement, United Launch Alliance, the flight rocket's operator, said that it was "closely monitoring solar activity" and that launch weather officers "plan to reevaluate the solar weather conditions before the start of our countdown."

In a post on the social media platform X on Wednesday afternoon, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Centre said the impending coronal mass ejection, even stronger and faster than the previous two, had arrived.

The effects of that event are expected to begin on Wednesday and last through Thursday. According to the British Geological Survey, the activity could cause "potentially the largest solar storm to hit our planet in over two decades."

Baker likened the impacts seen so far to the series of Halloween storms that pummeled Earth's magnetosphere in 2003. But back then, there were only a few hundred satellites in low-Earth orbit, he said, and now there are several thousands.

Agencies that monitor space weather, however, are better prepared. "We don't know for sure what the sun may throw at us," Baker said. "But we hope that we, as a space weather community, are getting better at helping to avoid the most severe consequences."

- The New York Times

DID YOU KNOW?

New GM fungus to fix mosquito problem

Watch your back, DEET. There's a new form of mosquito control in town — one that involves olfactory trickery, genetic engineering and a deadly infectious fungus.

Researchers reported in the journal Nature Microbiology that Metarhizium — a fungus already used to control pests — can be genetically engineered to produce so much of a sweet-smelling substance that it is virtually irresistible to mosquitoes. When they laced traps with those fungi, 90% to 100% of mosquitoes were killed in lab experiments. The scientists say this may provide an affordable, scalable and more ecologically friendly way to quell the bloodsucking insects.

"This work is cool in that it puts together a classic biological control idea with a more modern high-tech approach," said Noah Rose, a biologist at the University of California, San Diego, who wasn't involved in the study.

Mosquitoes are among the deadliest animals on Earth. They spread malaria, dengue and other diseases, which infect up to 700 million people and kill 1 million each year. Public health professionals fumigate communities and manufacture pesticide-laced bed nets to cull mosquito numbers. But many insect populations have evolved resistance to chemical interventions.

Emerging techniques counter the pests through biology — for example, preventing disease growth by infecting the insects with Wolbachia bacteria, or sterilizing them with radiation. The new study provides a fungus that lures mosquitoes to their death.

Metarhizium attracts insect hosts by emitting longifolene, a compound used by perfumers. The fungus essentially masquerades as a delicious flower. Mosquitoes are drawn to the scent, and the fungus's spores kill the insects by overtaking their insides and consuming them for nutrients. But in nature, Metarhizium only makes longifolene after it has already killed an insect.

The researchers engineered a strain of Metarhizium that constantly manufactures longifolene at very high levels. This involved inserting the gene responsible for synthesising the compound from pine trees into the fungi. They grew the engineered strains on a cheap material made from wheat and rice, then configured them in square traps, each slightly smaller than a magazine. Within about five days, the traps killed half the mosquitoes used in lab experiments; nearly all the mosquitoes died days later. The devices even worked when scientists placed competing scents in the room.

- NYT

Rainfall in Mumbai causes 8% of total deaths during monsoon: Study

Reveals children under five years and slum dwellers are most impacted

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Excess rainfall in Mumbai claims over 2,300 lives every monsoon season through a cascade of direct and indirect effects, scientists reported on Wednesday, noting that excess mortality periods continue for at least five weeks after each episode of intense rain.

Heavy downpour and flooding in the coastal megacity could be responsible for approximately 8% of the city's total deaths in the four monsoon months, they said, flagging that the most affected are children under five years and slum dwellers.

The study – published in Nature – is possibly the first one on the health impacts of rainfall and flooding in big Indian cities.

They found that rainfall contributed to around 8% of deaths during monsoon, which is equated to 2,308-2,718 excess lives lost per year.

These figures are comparable to Mumbai's deaths from cancers over the same periods, reported the team comprising Tom Bearpark at Princeton University, Ashwin Rode at the University of Chicago and Archana Patankar, Green Globe Consulting, Mumbai.

The researchers used 10 years (2006-2015) of rain records maintained by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and matched excess rainfall (like over 150 mm) days with mortality records that come with addresses, on the basis of which they identified if an individual lives in a slum.

"Our estimates are substantially higher than those recorded in official statistics. Our results highlight a major, under-studied public-health impact of rainfall in one of the world's largest cities, and suggest that climate change and sea-level rise could worsen these risks in the absence of significant adaptations," Bearpark told *DH*.

"Further, we find that these impacts are highly unequal, with slum residents, children, and women most affected."

A day with 150 mm rainfall causes a 2.2% increase in the general mortality rate in India's financial capital across the subsequent five weeks, probably due to a combination of factors, including drowning, electrocution, spread of diseases like diarrhoea, dengue, malaria and typhoid, and people's inability to seek timely hospital care.

The relative risk of increased mortality rates over the five weeks after a 150-mm rainfall event was highest in children under five years (5.3%) relative to older individuals, and higher in women.

SC seeks ED reply on ex-TN minister's plea to relax bail conditions

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice to the Enforcement Directorate on an application filed by former Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji seeking a relaxation of his bail conditions in the money laundering case related to the cash-for-jobs scam.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi sought a response from the Enforcement Directorate on modifying conditions that required Balaji to mark his attendance every Monday and Friday between 11 am and 12 noon at the office of the Deputy Director, Directorate of Enforcement, Chennai. He is also mandated to appear on the first Saturday of every calendar month before the investigating officers of the three scheduled offences.

"Let the ED file its reply. Today the bench would not be saying anything. However, the ED must respond as to whether Balaji's appearance before it is still required or not. These are essentially judicial proceedings. It is not similar to the political battlefield," the bench said.

Balaji claimed that he has complied with all directions for 13 months. The former Minister clarified that he has made more than 100 appearances before the Enforcement Directorate , and that the PMLA trial has now commenced while the predicate offences are still at the summons stage.

High court slams man for dragging his parents to court

MUMBAI, PTI

In today's age, there is something wrong in the upbringing wherein a son has dragged aged parents to court instead of taking them on a pilgrimage as done by Shravan Kumar, rued the Bombay High Court, refusing relief to a man seeking a restraining order against his parents.

A bench of Justice Jitendra Jain, in an order passed on Thursday, declined to grant any relief to the man who had sought an order restraining his parents from using his house in suburban Goregaon when they visit Mumbai for their medical treatment.

The man had challenged a January 2018 order of a civil court in Mumbai refusing to restrain his parents from using the residential premises. The high court, in the order, observed this was one more instance and "sorry state of affairs" where a son, instead of discharging the moral duty of taking care of his ailing and aged parents, has filed a suit seeking restrain order.

Justice Jain said the moral values inculcated in our culture have fallen to such an extent that "we have forgotten Shravan Kumar who took his parents for pilgrimage and on the way laid down his life."

Notably, Shravan Kumar was a character mentioned in Hindu epic Ramayan who was known for his filial devotion

Referring to the case in hand, Justice Jain said he was of the view that the petitioner has to take care of his aged parents. The court noted that at present, the parents are living with their third son in Kolhapur, but have to travel frequently to Mumbai, for medical treatment.

The bench directed the petitioner's son or his wife will go and receive the parents whenever they come to Mumbai, bring them to their residence and also accompany them to the hospital for treatment. If there is any breach of the order or any inconvenience is caused to the parents then the petitioner son will be held in contempt of this order, the court warned.

Anil Ambani skips ED summons in FEMA case; agency issues fresh notice for Nov 17

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Enforcement Directorate has issued fresh summons to Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani to appear before it on November 17 in a FEMA case after he skipped his scheduled date on Friday.

ED sources said the agency rejected Ambani's offer to depose through "virtual means".

In a statement, a spokesperson of the 66-year-old businessman said he has written to the federal probe agency assuring "full cooperation" in the probe.

According to sources, the agency had asked Ambani to appear before it in person on Friday and get his statement recorded under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Anil Ambani

The probe pertains to the Jaipur-Reengus highway project.

In an earlier statement, the ED had said that after recently attaching assets worth Rs 7,500 crore belonging to Ambani and his companies under the anti-money laundering law, a search carried out against Reliance Infrastructure Ltd found that an alleged Rs 40 crore was "siphoned" from the highway project. "Funds moved through Surat-based shell companies to Dubai. The trail has unearthed a wider international hawala network exceeding Rs 600 crore," the agency had said.

The ED has recorded the statement of various persons, including some alleged hawala dealers, following which they summoned Ambani, the sources said. "The matter (FEMA case) is 15 years old, dating to 2010. It concerns issues associated with road contractor," the statement said.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

ARE YOU CRAZY BUSY, HONEY?
OH YES! BUSINESS IS STILL SKYROCKETING, AND SINCE WE HIRED MAYA...
WE'VE BECOME THE CENTER FOR INFORMATION...EVEN HAIRDRESSERS GET THEIR GOSSIP FROM US
I HEAR THERE'S NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN FRED AND FREDA FINKLEMAN
I'VE GOT AN EVEN JUICIER BOMBSHELL THAN THAT!
DO TELL!

Hagar The Horrible

YOU'RE NOT EATING? YOU'LL HURT MY FEELINGS IF YOU SNUB YOUR MEAL!
PRETEND I'M ONE OF YOUR FINICKY CATS!
OKAY! I'LL GO WHIP UP SOMETHING ELSE!
IT WORKED!

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

EUDORA, ARE YOU CRYING? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I NEVER WANTED TO COME TO THIS CAMP
BUT I'M NOT AS LONELY AS I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE
I'M ONLY CRYING WITH ONE EYE

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

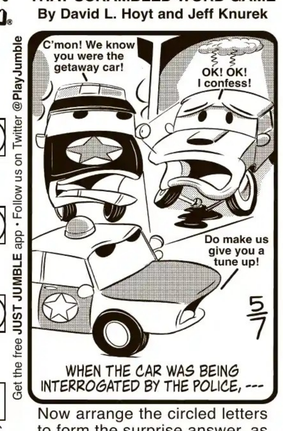
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VEMOI

ROWDL

GDUTBE

YEOKMN


C'mon! We know you were the getaway car!
OK! OK! I confess!
Do make us give you a tune up!
5/7
WHEN THE CAR WAS BEING INTERROGATED BY THE POLICE, ---

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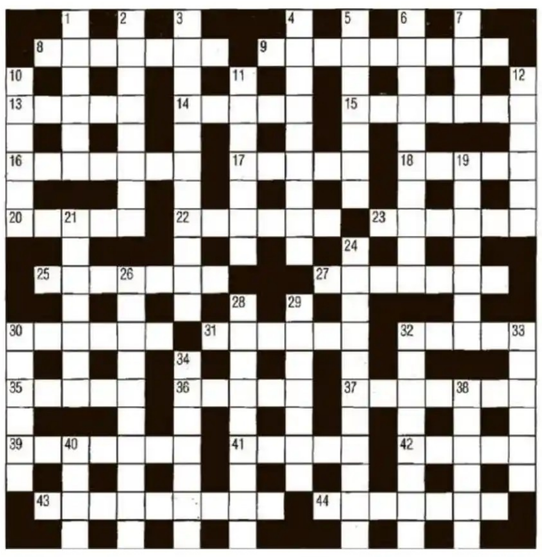
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SKIMP COUNT YELLOW WEALTH
Answer: He asked where to find a stir fry pan, and the salesperson said — "WOK" THIS WAY

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4014



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
8 With the exception of the local clique (7)
9 How the repairman settled the quarrel? (7,2)
13 Ray, at the end of the evening, has a meal out (5)
14 Thin and weak-looking, unlike Rose (5)
15 Try to appropriate all the biggest (7)
16 On return, is not revising one's ideas (7)
17 Danger through, I left (5)
18 Snap audibly "It's a bay!" (5)
20 The man in the suit (5)
22 Complaining right away of being sick (6)
23 Criticised when I missed out details (6)
25 Strike in a clothes factory (7)
27 On the one hand, denies spilling the oil (7)
30 Make young in spirit (6)
31 A green that's suitable for the pub decor (6)
32 Be prepared to surround (5)
35 The place in which we accommodated her (5)
36 The voice is carrying one right back (5)
37 What the birds do when he teases them? (7)
39 Put a new wrapper on when you get back (7)
41 Not absent! Didn't I tell you so! (5)
42 Question about the metal barriers (5)
43 First class fish and pork (9)
44 Greets the silly ass carrying the instrument (7)

DOWN
1 Proprietary - that's very clear (6)
2 As is proper, stood up for the lady (8)
3 How you put pepper and salt on very quickly? (2,3,6)
4 A new addition to the menage - a super piano (4,5)
5 Dash! There's coal in it! (7)
6 Good gracious, is that the damned alarm? (5,5)
7 Get mixed up and overload the circuit (4)
10 While covering for the fellow spies (6)
11 As a joke, giving a little session on the rack to? (3-4)
12 Said, by the way, the date had been altered (6)
19 Understands it's a gun - a woman's (7)
21 Free when the reel is broken by the rough sea (7)
24 Increase the rent when you get safely away from (5,3,3)
26 It's rotten waiting for a ball that just goes into the net (3,7)
28 A gem that shines only at night? (9)
29 Got into a rage when charged (7)
30 We stand exposed, clutching the warning (6)
32 Reveal there's been a fight outside the ring (5,3)
33 How the waitress said "Only pie for dessert"? (6)
34 Lest, perhaps, the hand coming through should frighten you (7)
38 Followed the girl back the time before (6)
40 A club, perhaps, with character (4)

EASY

ACROSS
8 Agitate (7)
9 Prepared (4,5)
13 Wanderer (5)
14 Cluster (5)
15 Haven (7)
16 Hobby (7)
17 Nervous (5)
18 Power (5)
20 Shoot (5)
22 Laboured (6)
23 Join (6)
25 Depict (7)
27 Plant (7)
30 Dog (6)
31 Negligent (6)
32 Jockey (5)
35 Before time (5)
36 Appears (5)
37 Fool (7)
39 Gorged (7)
41 Even (5)
42 Shelf (5)
43 Flower (9)
44 Thoughtful (7)

DOWN
1 Departs (6)
2 Bird (8)
3 Eleven (7,4)
4 Craftsman (9)
5 Student (7)
6 Measure (10)
7 Rim (4)
10 Fruit (6)
11 Shorten (7)
12 Sew (6)
19 Enterprising (2-5)
21 Cock (7)
24 Dejected (11)
26 Minute (5-5)
28 Rising (9)
29 Letter (7)
30 Drink (6)
32 Cruel (8)
33 Blush (6)
34 Agrees (7)
38 Vegetable (6)
40 Fruit (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12288

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Waist 6, Trip-E 9, Pan-Dora 10, C-ream 11, Igloo 12, Grabs 13, Wins-ton 15, Fey 17, Edie 18, At home 19, A-do-re 20, Sahar-a 22, Star 24, H-it 25, Pastern 26, Remus 27, A-gain 28, Groom 29, Fighter 30, Anita 31, My-rrh.
DOWN: 2, Afrai-d 3, Spar-se 4, Tam 5, Ado-RN 6, Trib-ut-e 7, Rags 8, Pro tem 12, Go-UD-a 13, We-l-sh 14, Night 15, Forte 16, Year-n 18, Arras 19, Ar-men-ia 21, Air-gun 22, Sta-RR-y 23, Ar-dour 25, Pu-shy 26, Rift 28, Gem.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Ogled 6, Cause 9, Martian 10, Hobby 11, Stoop 12, Lists 13, Averted 15, Sea 17, Desk 18, Recall 19, Trees 20, Reason 22, Once 24, Ely 25, Minster 26, Idiot 27, Appal 28, Seals 29, Gentler 30, Decor 31, Tsars.
DOWN: 2, Groove 3, Embark 4, Day 5, Staid 6, Castles 7, Ants 8, Shovel 12, Learn 13, Adore 14, Essay 15, Saint 16, Alter 18, Remit 19, Toddler 21, Elapse 22, Osiers 23, Cellar 25, Mouth 26, Iago 28, Set.

◆SU-DO-KU-6752◆

		6			4	9		3
					6		7	
		5	2		7	8	4	
			4					
9		7				3		2
					2			
	6	3	8		9	7		
	7		3					
1		2	7			4		

medium

3	4	9	8	2	1	5	6	7
6	5	7	9	3	4	8	1	2
1	2	8	7	5	6	4	9	3
4	3	1	6	8	9	2	7	5
8	9	6	2	7	5	1	3	4
2	7	5	4	1	3	9	8	6
5	6	4	1	9	7	3	2	8
7	1	2	3	4	8	6	5	9
9	8	3	5	6	2	7	4	1

SOLUTION TO 6751

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1 I1 T1 U1 E1 L1 Q10 — 3rd Letter Triple
T1 H4 A1 P3 N1 I1 I1 — Triple Word Score
O1 O1 O1 O1 S1 D2 V4
K5 A1 E1 D2 A1 R1 M3

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3 I1 M3 O1 S1 A1
U1 N1 B3 O1 L1 T1
S1 T1 R1 E1 W4
B3 E1 A1 U1 T1 Y4

RACK 1 = 20
RACK 2 = 8
RACK 3 = 24
RACK 4 = 11
JUDD'S TOTAL 63

PAR SCORE 40-50

HITORI-3206

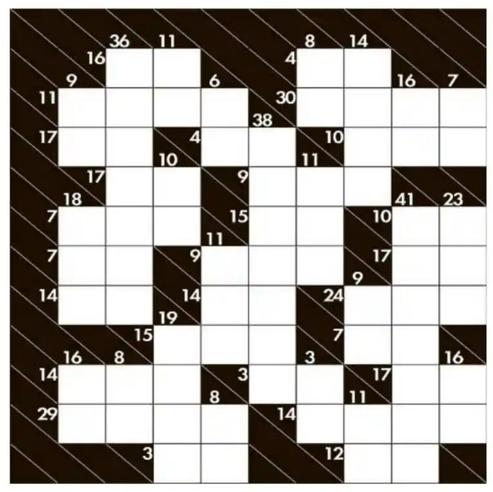
5	2	7	3	2	1	4	4
4	8	4	2	5	6	4	7
4	1	8	2	2	7	4	6
4	4	4	5	7	4	2	4
3	7	4	6	7	2	1	8
6	3	4	8	4	5	4	1
7	2	2	4	8	4	3	7
2	6	4	1	3	8	7	5

SOLUTION TO 3205

■	5	3	■	6	2	■	7
3	4	■	1	7	■	8	5
5	7	6	3	■	4	■	2
1	■	4	■	3	8	5	6
6	3	■	4	2	7	■	8
7	2	1	6	5	■	3	■
4	■	2	■	8	1	6	3
■	1	7	2	■	6	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

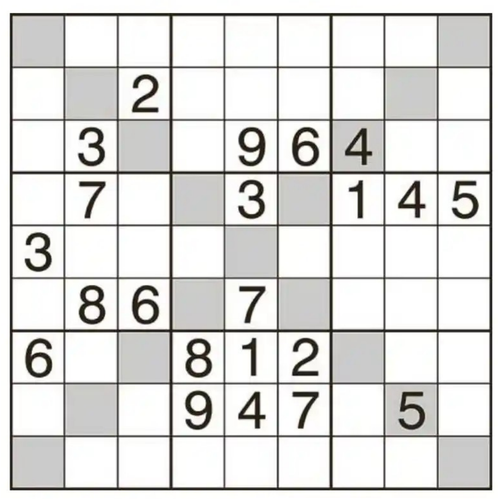
KAKURO- 3206



SOLUTION TO 3205

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3736



SOLUTION TO 3735

9	8	7	6	5	3	4	1	2
6	1	3	2	4	8	9	5	7
2	4	5	7	9	1	8	3	6
1	9	2	3	8	4	6	7	5
4	3	8	5	6	7	2	9	1
7	5	6	9	1	2	3	8	4
8	6	1	4	3	5	7	2	9
5	7	9	8	2	6	1	4	3
3	2	4	1	7	9	5	6	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

BYPOLL RESULTS

Jubilee Hills (Telangana)
Winner **Naveen Yadav**
Congress
Victory margin: **24,729**
Loser **Maganti Sunitha Gopinath**, BRS

Tarn Taran (Punjab)
Winner **Harmeet Singh Sandhu**
AAP
Victory margin: **12,091**
Loser **Sukhwinder Kaur**, Shiromani Akali Dal

Anta (Rajasthan))
Winner **Pramod Jain**
Congress
Victory margin: **15,612**
Loser **Morpal Suman**, BJP

Nuapada (Odisha)
Winner **Jay Dholakia**
BJP
Victory margin: **83,748**
Loser **Ghasi Ram Majhi**, Congress

Ghatshila (Jharkhand)
Winner **Somesh Chandra Soren**
JMM
Victory margin: **38,601**
Loser **Babu Lal Soren**, BJP

Nagrota (J&K)
Winner **Devayani Rana**
BJP
Victory margin: **24,647**
Loser **Harsh Dev Singh**, JKNPP

Budgam (J&K)
Winner **Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi**
PDP
Victory margin: **4,478**
Loser **Aga Syed Mahmood Al-Mosavi**, NC

Dampa (Mizoram)
Winner **Dr R Lalthangliana**
MIZO NATIONAL FRONT
Victory margin: **562**
Loser **Vanlalsailova**, ZPM

Bypolls bring solace for Congress

Silver lining for the grand old party was its win over ruling BJP in Rajasthan

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Ruling National Conference in J&K and BJP in Rajasthan were in for a rude shock on Friday, as they lost bypolls even as Congress wrested two seats, providing some relief after a rout in Bihar.

For the BJP, the brighter prospects came from Odisha, where the results were a jolt to the BJD, as well as from J&K. While ruling parties lost elsewhere, Congress in Telangana, AAP in Punjab and JMM in Jharkhand saw their candidates on the winning side.

Eight seats, including two in Jammu and Kashmir, went to bypolls on November 11 along with the second phase of the Bihar Assembly elections.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the NC lost Budgam to the PDP, while in Nagrota, BJP's Devyani Rana won.

The bypolls in the union territory had laid bare the troubles in the I.N.D.I.A bloc with the recent Rajya Sabha polls in the state, adding to the tension. Congress had said it would not contest Nagrota, where NC ended up a distant third.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti with party candidate Aga Syed Muntazir during celebrations after he won Budgam Assembly constituency by-election, in Budgam district. PTI

DH Political THEATRE

For the Congress, the silver lining was the victory in Rajasthan's Anta, where it defeated the ruling BJP, whose MLA's disqualification had resulted in the bypoll.

Congress' Pramod Jain Bhaya defeated BJP's Morpal Suman by a margin of 15,612 votes, riding on a united offensive by otherwise warring Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot and Govind Dotasra.

A former Congress leader Naresh Meena polled 53,800 votes, his third impressive performance in three elections despite losing.

Defeating BRS in its sitting seat of Jubilee Hills of Telangana was the icing on the cake for Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who managed to enlist the support of AIMIM. Congress' Naveen Yadav won by 24,729 votes against Maganti Sunitha Gopinath of BRS. BJP's Deepak Reddy Lankala was a distant third.

Amid the loss in Rajasthan, the brighter side for the BJP was Odisha's Nuapada where its candidate Jay Dholakia won by a whopping 83,748 votes, defeating Congress' Ghasi Ram Majhi.

The BJD ended a distant third after the seat fell vacant following the death of Rajesh Dholakia, whose son jumped ship to fight for BJP.

Punjab brought cheers to the AAP camp with a decisive victory for Harmeet Singh Sandhu in Tarn Taran. He contested on an Akali Dal ticket in 2022. Akali Dal maintained the second position while Congress was in fourth position.

JMM's Somesh Chandra Soren defeated BJP's Babulal Soren, son of Champai Soren who shifted from JMM to BJP. In Mizoram, ruling ZPM's Vanlalsailova lost to MNF's R Laltangliana while Congress came third followed by the BJP.

PDP stuns NC in Budgam

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

In a setback to the ruling National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday won the Budgam Assembly seat, signalling growing public disenchantment against Omar Abdullah government.

PDP candidate Aga Muntazir defeated NC's Aga Mahmood. The loss is particularly stinging for the NC, as Budgam has traditionally served as a safe constituency and a symbolic indicator of the party's grassroots hold in central Kashmir.

The bypoll was necessitated after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah vacated the seat earlier this year, choosing to retain Ganderbal, a constituency long associated with his family and considered the NC's traditional stronghold.

In Jammu, Devyani Rana, daughter of late BJP leader Devender Singh Rana, retained the Nagrota Assembly seat with a decisive victory.

She secured 42,350 votes, defeating former minister and J&K National Panthers Party (JKNPP) candidate Harsh Dev Singh, who polled 17,703 votes.

The NC's Shamim Begum finished third with 10,872 votes, with Rana winning by an emphatic margin of 24,647 votes. The seat fell vacant following the death of Rana on October 31, 2024.

The bypolls, though limited to two constituencies, are being viewed as an early warning sign for the government, exposing vulnerabilities within the NC's core support base ahead of the broader political calendar. Political observers say the Budgam defeat could embolden the opposition PDP, which has been attempting to rebuild its influence in the Valley.

The contrasting results highlight a political divide across regions. While the PDP made an aggressive comeback in the Valley, the BJP continued to consolidate its position in Jammu. For the Omar Abdullah government, the Budgam outcome is likely to trigger introspection within the NC as it faces renewed opposition momentum in Kashmir.

OMAR ABDULLAH
Jammu and Kashmir CM

"There is an English proverb – you cut your nose to spite your face. Whatever message he (Aga Ruhullah) wanted to send to me is one thing, but politically he has taken a suicidal step.

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress chief

"We will conduct a thorough study of the election results and will present a detailed perspective after understanding the reasons for the outcomes. We are deeply grateful from the bottom of our hearts to those voters in Bihar who supported the Mahagathbandhan.

BHUPESH BAGHEL
Congress Gen Secy

"The trends indicate that the NDA is heading towards a three-fourth majority. (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah had already spoken about this (outcome). If there is one person responsible for this entire election (result), it is Gyanesh Kumar. Congratulations and best wishes to him in advance for this.

KUNAL GHOSH
Trinamool leader

"The Bihar equation does not apply here. In Bihar you fought Congress-type parties. But in Bengal, the TMC has prepared counters for every allegation. Let Modiji keep this fantasy talk inside the pocket of his ten-lakh-rupee jacket.

After Bihar win, BJP's meme fest keeps social media abuzz

NEW DELHI, PTI: The social media handles of the BJP were abuzz with memes and jibes targeted at Congress and Rahul Gandhi on Friday, soon after the bumper performance of the saffron party in the Bihar assembly polls, with the party's Assam unit apologising for upsetting the "national child" on Children's Day.

The BJP's Assam unit in a post on X said, "Thank you Bihar. We will again celebrate together in 2026."

In another post, it said, "We sincerely apologise for upsetting the 'national child' on Children's Day. Truly unfortunate."

The BJP's West Bengal unit also posted on X saying, "Next West Bengal".

The All India Trinamool Congress's X handle was also abuzz with witty responses.

"BJP still waiting for a victory in Bengal," it said in a post on X with a photo showing a skeleton sitting on a chair.

In another post, BJP West Bengal shared a video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi talking on the phone, saying "aap log rona band kijiye" (you stop crying).

The Trinamool Congress responded with a video of a child saying "sapne dekhna achi bat hai" (it is a good thing to have dreams).

Mamata should be face of Oppn bloc to counter BJP: TMC leader

KOLKATA, PTI: Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Bandyopadhyay on Friday said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should be the "face" of the I.N.D.I.A bloc to counter the BJP nationally.

Asserting that the TMC under Banerjee's leadership would win the 2026 West Bengal assembly elections with an absolute majority, Bandyopadhyay dismissed suggestions that the BJP's strong performance in neighbouring Bihar could translate into gains in Bengal.

"BJP has good organisational strength in Bihar and the Congress failed to match them, which was reflected in the vote results. Mark my words, TMC will romp home with an absolute majority under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee in the 2026 polls," he said.

Asked if Banerjee should lead the I.N.D.I.A bloc in the wake of electoral Congress' electoral reverses, Bandyopadhyay said, "Yes, Didi should be the face of the non-BJP front to fight the communal, divisive, dictatorial and undemocratic politics of the BJP."

Congress insiders blame overreliance on vote-theft pitch

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress settled for a demoralising defeat in Bihar, where it could win just six seats, as electors snubbed its aggressive "vote theft" pitch and many of its leaders refused to walk the extra mile after their demands for tickets or prominence were not met.

Its two top leaders in the state — Bihar chief Rajesh Ram in Kutumba and Legislature Party leader Shakeel Ahmed Khan in Kadwa — lost the Assembly elections despite the party nearly emulating the vote share it achieved five years ago, when it won 19 out of the 70 seats it contested. Senior Bihar Congress leader Akhilesh Prasad Singh has already promised an introspection by the party.

While the Rahul Gandhi-led "Voter Adhikar Yatra" created a buzz, the Congress appeared to have failed to capitalise on it due to its organisational deficiencies, while the state leadership could not weave a campaign around issues like jobs along with "vote chori".

Senior leaders not getting their way on ticket distribution — with some failing to get nominations for their kin — led to disgruntled camps either slowing down the campaign or becoming inactive.

The party leaders also appeared unconvinced by Rahul's vote-theft pitch and his absence for almost two months in the run-up to the polls after the yatra.

Local leaders were of the view that the Congress' emphasis on vote theft diverted attention and resources when the polls were at the doorsteps.

The party's reverses in the Seemachal and Bhojpur belts, otherwise areas where it derives influence, added to its woes. Party managers blame it on organisational troubles and misguided priorities.

Troubles were not just in the alliance but also in the party, as in-charge Krishna Allavaru faced hurdles for attempting to change the party's roadmap by minimising its dependence on the RJD and trying to rein in leaders who, according to a section, were surrendering their interests to the alliance leader.

The blame also accrued to the Congress central leadership because it chose to send Allavaru only this February to revamp the organisation in a state where it last won an Assembly election in 1990.

An I.N.D.I.A-bloc leader told *DH* that Allavaru might have succeeded in getting the Congress stand up to the RJD, but might not have managed to rejuvenate organisation.

Six Cong men who survived NDA tsunami

Qamrul Hoda, Kishanganj
Abidur Rahman, Araria
Manoj Bishwas, Forbesganj
Abhishek Ranjan, Chanpatia
Surendra Prasad, Valmiki Nagar
Manohar Singh, Manihari

'MY formula': Modi sets tone for 2026

PM hails NDA's biggest mandate since 2010; predicts Cong split

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Setting the tone for five Assembly elections in the coming year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told party workers at the BJP headquarters on Friday evening that the Bihar verdict is the "biggest mandate for the NDA since 2010".

Launching a sharp attack on the Congress over nationalism, Modi predicted that the party would soon split. He also said Bihar had voted for a new "MY formula" — mahila (women) and youth". The verdict, he said, was a special win for women, who had "faced the brunt of Jungle Raj under Lalu Prasad".

"Bihar is among the states with the highest number of young people. Today they have shattered the old MY formula with a new, positive MY formula — women and youth," Modi said, while praising Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership for its role in the NDA's landslide victory.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves a 'gamcha' during the celebration of NDA's victory, at BJP headquarters, in New Delhi, on Friday. PTI

For the BJP leadership, which has been grappling with organisational issues, the result provides renewed strength to settle pending appointments. Key positions in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka remain unfilled ahead of the BJP's presidential elections.

Taking a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "vote chori" allegations, Modi congratulated the Election Commission for conducting the SIR exercise and the polls smoothly, noting the high turnout. "Some targeted the ECI, but the people of Bihar have given them a stern response with their votes," he said.

Modi also said he would treat party workers to "makhana kheer", and credited Bihar BJP chief and Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary as well as Lok Janshakti Party (RV) leader Chirag Paswan for the alliance's performance.

Modi's assertion that the win is a "blockbuster performance" stems from the BJP's own victory within NDA's sweep. For the BJP, this will mark the first time it will be the single-largest party in Bihar. The last time that the BJP posted a strong performance was in 2010, when it won 91 seats, behind the JD(U)'s 115. While the final tally is awaited, the BJP's vote share is touching 20%, a slight improvement from the 19.46% it managed in 2020, but behind its 2015 vote share of 24.42% — which has been its highest vote share.

Beyond the numbers, the outcome shifts the power balance within the alliance. In 2020, the BJP won 74 seats against JD(U)'s 43, though the JD(U)'s vote share (32.83%) remained much higher. This time, the BJP is unlikely to continue playing second fiddle to Nitish Kumar.

8 injured in blast at J&K police station while taking samples of explosives

SRINAGAR, PTI: An accidental blast occurred on the premises of the Nowgam police station in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday night while personnel were taking samples of explosive material seized from Faridabad in connection with a "white-collar" terror module case, officials said.

At least eight personnel were seriously injured, they said.

The 360 kg of explosive material was brought from Faridabad by the J&K Police after seizing it from the rented residence of Dr Muzzamil Ganaie, who is among the eight persons arrested so far in this terror module case.

It was not immediately clear whether the entire 360 kg of explosives were stored at the police station, where the white-collar terror module case was registered on October 19.

Registration of 4 doctors revoked

The National Medical Commission on Friday removed the names Dr Muzaffar Ahmad, Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather, Dr Muzamil Shakeel and Dr Shaheen Saeed from the National Medical Register after they were charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act following the Delhi blast.

Following this, these doctors will not be allowed to practice medicine or to hold any appointment as a medical practitioner till further orders from the commission.

ANALYSIS

How Bihar's arithmetic doesn't work in UP

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Will the outcome of the Bihar elections have a bearing on Uttar Pradesh politics when Yogi Adityanath steps out to renew his mandate in 2027?

The two neighbouring states together send 120 MPs to the Lok Sabha. They share not just a long border, but a common language, culture and food habits. But politically, UP and Bihar have often displayed different streaks. As in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, while the NDA swept Bihar, in UP, the Congress and Samajwadi Party alliance made deep inroads to leave a gaping hole in the BJP's overall tally in Parliament.

Nitish Kumar, the repository of non-Yadav OBC and Mahadalits, brings 15-20% of the votes to the table. Dovetailed with the BJP's upper caste support base, the NDA crosses the 30% vote share.

In UP, there is no third force that can lay claim to the non-Yadav space, which was traditionally divided between the BSP, SP and the BJP. With Mayawati's decline in the last two elections, the spoils have been split between Akhilesh Yadav and Yogi.

So, unlike in Bihar, where the scales tilt in the favour of the alliance that has Nitish Kumar on its side; in UP, the party that can get influence over the extremely backward class communities has a better probability of winning.

In the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elections, the BJP got a better share of these communities. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav struck an alliance with smaller caste-based parties but failed to cut much ice.

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the SP changed its strategy to induct Dalit and backward communities. BSP turncoats contesting on SP ticket took the I.N.D.I.A bloc tally to 43, pushing the BJP to the second spot.

TALE OF TWO HEARTLANDS

- Nitish brings 15–20% votes through non-Yadav OBCs and Mahadalits
- UP has no equivalent force that can command non-Yadav OBC space
- While Bihar arithmetic hinges on Nitish, UP's hinges on who persuades extremely backward classes
- In Bihar, RJD's strategy remained Yadav-centric
- Samajwadi Party in UP moved away from Yadav dominance
- SP's PDA strategy – Picheda, Dalit, Adivasi – stitched together a winning coalition on the ground

Yadav domination

In Bihar, of the 143 that the RJD contested, the party fielded more than 50 candidates from the Yadav community. That is, one out of every third candidate by the party was a Yadav, which comprises 14% of the voters.

In contrast, of the 62 seats the Samajwadi Party contested in UP out of 80 in the state, it fielded only five Yadav candidates, five less than the last time. All the candidates — Akhilesh, his wife Dimple and three other cousins — were from the SP's first family.

The vacancy was filled by nominating candidates from numerically smaller backward castes. The strategy worked, and the SP notched up 37 seats.

Dalit votes

In Bihar, of the 19% Dalit votes, the Dushaads or Paswans are one of the biggest socially cohesive communities. Since the rise of Ram Vilas Paswan in Bihar politics, they have been aligned with the alliance that the Lok Janshakti Party (R), now led by his son Chirag Paswan, joins.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Jatavs, who form 13% of the electorate, are the core support base of Mayawati's BSP. The second largest group is that of the Pasis. In the run-up to the LS polls, the SP inducted several Pasi leaders from the BSP and gave them tickets.

The social coalition, what Akhielsh called PDA (Picheda, Dalit and Adivasi Backward, SC and Tribals) clicked on the ground.

A drone explodes during a Russian attack in Kyiv on Friday. REUTERS

Russia intensifies attacks on Ukraine capital

KYIV, AP/PTI: Four people were killed after Russia unleashed a massive combined attack on Kyiv early Friday, sparking fires and scattering debris across many districts of the capital, Ukrainian authorities said.

At least 27 people were injured as emergency crews responded to multiple strikes, said Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv's military administration. At least 430 drones and 18 missiles were used in the attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

He said the attack, which struck other regions of the country, was targeting Kyiv. "A specially calculated attack to cause as much harm as possible to people and civilians," Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram.

He added the Azerbaijan Embassy was damaged by fragments of an Iskander missile.

Fifteen people were hospitalised, including one man in critical condition and a pregnant woman, after a series of powerful explosions sounded in the city and airs defences were activated. City authorities warned that power and water outages are possible.

In the Darnytskyi district, debris landed in the yard of a residential building and on the grounds of an educational facility. A car caught fire after being hit by falling fragments.

Trump to order probe into Epstein's ties with Clinton

Major banks and several prominent Democrats may face FBI investigation

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that he wants the Justice Department and the FBI to investigate links between the late alleged sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein and former Democratic president Bill Clinton.

Seeking to turn the tables after a new batch of Epstein emails reignited questions over his own ties to the disgraced financier, Trump also demanded a probe into US bank JPMorgan Chase, former Harvard president Larry Summers and others.

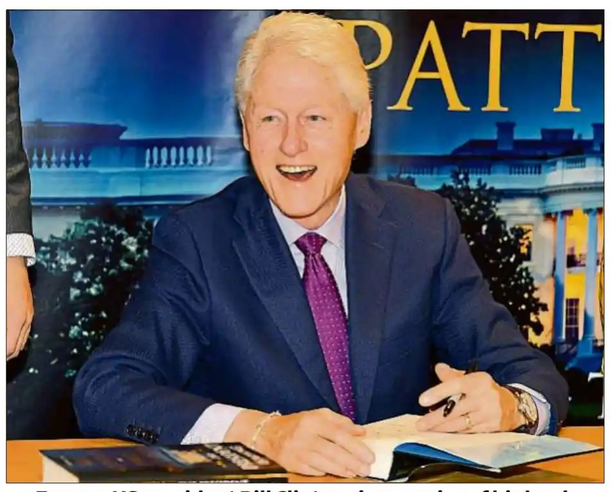
Trump accused rival Democrats of "using the Epstein Hoax" to distract from the party's recent compromise to end a record US government shutdown, insisting the scandal involved "Democrats, not Republicans." "I will be asking A G Pam Bondi, and the Department of Justice, together with our great patriots at the FBI, to investigate Jeffrey Epstein's involvement and relationship with Bill Clinton, Larry Summers, Reid Hoffman, JPMorgan Chase, and many other people and institutions," Trump said on Truth Social.

"Records show that these men, and many others, spent large portions of their life with Epstein, and on his 'Island.'"

Clinton has long faced scrutiny over his ties to Epstein and flew on his private plane, although he has never been accused of wrongdoing in the scandal.

There was no immediate comment from Clinton, Summers, LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman or JPMorgan Chase, which in 2023 agreed to pay USD 290 million to settle a class-action lawsuit brought by victims of Epstein, its former client. Trump's message broke two days of silence over the scandal, with the emails released on Wednesday renewing questions over the 79-year-old's long and close relationship with Epstein.

Epstein died in prison in 2019 — by suicide — before he could face trial on federal sex charges. But questions over his alleged role in masterminding a sex ring that provided powerful men with underaged girls have only grown. Trump himself has not been accused of any wrongdoing, yet the scandal has dogged him since his return to the White House in January, despite his attempts to put a lid on the issue.



Former US president Bill Clinton signs copies of his book "The President Is Missing" in New York City. AFP FILE

SEX AND POLITICS

- Trump wants Justice Department and FBI to investigate Jeffrey Epstein links with Bill Clinton, JPMorgan Chase, Larry Summers, Reid Hoffman, and others.
- The President says records show Clinton and several others spent "large portions of their life" with Epstein and visited his private island.
- Congress is set to vote on demanding releasing all documents related to Epstein case.

US lawmaker to introduce bill to eliminate H-1B visa programme

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: An American lawmaker will introduce a Bill to "completely eliminate" the H-1B visa programme and remove the pathway to citizenship it offers, thereby "forcing" individuals to "return home" when their visa expires.

"My dear fellow Americans, I'm introducing a Bill to completely eliminate the H-1B visa programme, which has been riddled with fraud and abuse and has been displacing American workers for decades," said Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia in a video posted on X on Thursday.

She said there would be only one exemption in her Bill: a 10,000-per-year cap on visas issued to medical professionals such as doctors and nurses who provide life-saving care to Americans. Greene, however, noted that even this 10,000-per-year cap would be "phased out" over 10 years to "allow us time to build our own pipeline of American doctors and physicians".

Greene added that her Bill would also "take away the pathway to citizenship, forcing visa holders to return home when their visa expires".

WORLD AT A GLANCE

The Blue Origin New Glenn rocket lifts off in its second launch attempt at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida on Thursday. It is carrying Nasa's twin Escapade spacecraft to Mars. AFP

China's stranded astronauts return from space station

▶ Three Chinese astronauts, who aborted their departure home after their spacecraft was hit by debris, returned to earth safely on Friday, PTI reports from Beijing.

The return capsule of the Shenzhou-21 spaceship, carrying the astronauts Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said. They were scheduled to return on November 5, but their journey was postponed at the last minute after "small" space debris hit the station, according to CMSA. Official media earlier reported that the crew was unable to return on their own spacecraft after tiny cracks were found in the porthole of the Shenzhou-20's return capsule – damage that was likely caused by the debris impact. The incident, the first since the space station was launched in 2011, sparked concerns here as the station was built to accommodate three astronauts.

150 Palestinians held on plane

▶ South African authorities faced heavy criticism on Friday after they held over 150 Palestinians, including a woman who is nine months pregnant, on a plane for around 12 hours due to complications with their travel documents, AP/PTI reports from Johannesburg.

The Palestinians landed on a charter plane at Johannesburg's O R Tambo International Airport on Thursday after a stopover in Nairobi. The Palestinian passengers did not have exit stamps from Israeli authorities, did not indicate how long they would be staying in South Africa and had not given local addresses, leading immigration authorities to deny them entry. The 153 passengers including families and children were allowed to leave the plane on Thursday night after South Africa's Ministry of Home Affairs intervened.

Iran seizes oil tanker

DUBAI, AP/PTI: Iran seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker as it travelled through the narrow Strait of Hormuz on Friday, a US official said, turning the ship into Iranian waters in the first such interdiction in months in the strategic waterway.

Iran did not immediately acknowledge the seizure, though it comes as Tehran has been increasingly warning it can strike back after facing a 12-day war in June with Israel that saw the US strike Iranian nuclear sites.

The ship, the Talara, had been travelling from Ajman, UAE, onward to Singapore when Iranian forces intercepted it, said the US defence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters. A US Navy MQ-4C Triton drone had been circling above the area where the Talara was for hours on Friday, observing the seizure.

BBC tenders apology to Trump over speech edit

LONDON, REUTERS

The British Broadcasting Corporation sent a personal apology to US President Donald Trump on Thursday but said there was no legal basis for him to sue the public broadcaster over a documentary his lawyers described as defamatory.

The documentary, which aired on the BBC's "Panorama" news programme just before the 2024 US presidential election, spliced together three parts of Trump's speech on January 6, 2021, when his supporters stormed the Capitol. The edit created the impression that he had called for violence. "While the BBC sincerely regrets the manner in which the video clip was edited, we strongly disagree that there is a basis for a defamation claim," the broadcaster said in a statement.

Lawyers for the US president threatened on Sunday to sue the BBC for damages of up to $1 billion unless it withdrew the documentary, apologised to the president and compensated him for "financial and reputational harm."

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Govt notifies Digital Personal Data Protection Rules

The rules will give citizens control over their data

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Ministry of Information and Technology on Friday notified Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules 2025, which will pave the way for establishing a Data Protection Board that will levy penalties based on the nature of the data breach.

Some parts of the rules will be implemented immediately, while provisions like registration and obligations of consent managers, notice from data fiduciaries to individuals for processing their data and some other major norms related to processing of personal data etc, will be implemented over a period of 12-18 months.

The rules aimed at giving citizens control over their data, allow them to check for misuse, and protect their privacy in the online space. The rules are expected to help citizens avoid spam calls and unauthorised access to their personal data, video, and voice via any digital means.

There are also provisions in the new rules including registration and obligations of consent managers, notice from data fiduciaries to individuals for processing their data and some other major norms related to processing of personal data.

Reasonable safeguards to be implemented to protect personal data in possession or under control of a data fiduciary, including security measures such as encryption, firewalls, and more.

In case of a data breach, affected parties must be intimated in a concise, clear and plain manner and without delay, through the user account or any mode of communication registered by them. Nature and timing of the breach, impact and future safeguards to be outlined.

With the DPDP Rules in place, citizens can take recourse if their phone numbers are leaked for unauthorised calls. The rules will help investigate and identify the entity that leaked the phone number of an individual without consent, and penal actions can be taken against those found guilty.

Data is not to be stored beyond a one-year period unless required for compliance under law. Users must be intimated 48 hours before erasure of personal data barring continued use of the account / platform.

The DPDP Act 2023 has provisions to impose penalties of up to Rs 250 crore per breach on data fiduciaries. However, it has kept a graded penalty system to protect small businesses.

The rules came into force eight years after the Supreme Court, on August 24, 2017, held that the Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right with restrictions specified and relatable to fundamental rights as embedded in the Constitution.

DPDP rules mark significant milestone in data protection journey: Nasscom

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government's notification of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules 2025 marks a significant milestone in India's ongoing journey to strengthen its personal data protection architecture. With the rules now in force, the industry has a clearer and more actionable roadmap, said Nasscom and Data Security Council of India (DSCI) in a statement.

"The final rules largely preserve the structure and policy choices of the draft framework, while introducing a transparent and predictable phased commencement schedule. Key enhancements include greater clarity on verifiable consent with a definition embedded in the rules, alongside well-structured, distinct provisions for children and persons with disabilities. The sections addressing processing by the State remain broadly consistent with the draft, with refined drafting that improves readability without altering the underlying intent," both Nasscom and DSCI added.

At the same time, it is important to recognise that certain matters raised by industry during consultation arise from the architecture of the Act itself and could not realistically be addressed through subordinate legislation. These include the overarching structure of parental consent, the statutory age threshold for children and the requirement that all personal data breaches be notified.

"Our focus now moves to supporting implementation in a manner that is practical, proportionate and aligned with the objectives of the law."

On international data transfers, Nasscom-DSCI recognises the importance of developing mechanisms that support interoperability and facilitate co-operation with the country's key trading partners. A stable and predictable transfer environment is central to operationalising personal data protection and to the continued growth of India's digital economy, particularly for IT-ITES, global capability centres, platform businesses and our expanding ecosystem of startups and technology SMEs, it added.

Ivana Bartoletti, Chief Privacy and AI Governance Officer, Wipro Limited, said there is no doubt that India has entered a new era of privacy. In the age of AI, trust is crucial. And because AI depends on large volumes of data, strong privacy protections must come first. "This development marks an important step in strengthening India's digital ecosystem and aligns closely with the country's recent AI governance guidelines," Bartoletti added.

We believe in 'speed of doing business', says Naidu

Andhra emerging as gateway for investments in India

S N V SUDHIR
VISAKHAPATNAM, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu rolled out the red carpet for investors to the state, offering dedicated escrow bank accounts to pay industrial incentives and also to give sovereign guarantee.

At the launch of the two-day CII Partnership Summit 2025 on Friday, Naidu also invited investors to make Visakhapatnam their "second home", while adding that AP is able to attract investments to a tune of $20 billion, providing employment opportunities to 20 lakh youth in the past 18 months. He expressed hope that the government will be able to attract $500 billion in three years, and to provide jobs to 50 lakh youth. Accordingly, he said that the state, gifted with natural resources and a long coastline, stands as a gateway for investment in several sectors.

Delivering the keynote, the CM appreciated the participation of over 2,500 trade delegates from across the globe, including 522 representing 72 countries, and said that Visakhapatnam will emerge as a destination for IT and investments. He said that as per the suggestion of Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, he is ready to allot sea-facing land to develop a world-class ITPO convention centre in the city.

Separately, he also mentioned that the state government has adopted "Speed of Doing Business", and following 10 principles to attract investments and encourage industrialists, he said efforts are on to set up drone, electronics, aerospace, space, semiconductor, and defence corridors in AP.

"Andhra Pradesh is now emerging as the gateway for investments in India. Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the nation is moving forward in all sectors. Globally, India is now a leader in attracting investments. In Andhra Pradesh, we are granting industrial approvals not only based on the 'Ease of Doing Business' but through a 'Speed of Doing Business' approach. Approvals are being given in real-time, ensuring industries can start operations quickly. Investment promotion in the state follows 10 guiding principles," he reiterated.

Stating that a quantum valley will be developed in Amaravati, Naidu added that a quantum computer will be produced in Andhra Pradesh in two years. Accordingly, the state government has been emphasising on green energy, with a target to produce 160 GW of green energy of the country's target of 500 GW. This will also aid the proposed data centre in Visakhapatnam, which itself needs 6 GW of power.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu felicitates Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan during the 30th CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam on Friday. PTI

RIL to set up 1-GW AI data centre in AP

VISAKHAPATNAM, DHNS: After Google, Andhra Pradesh is set to host another hyperscale 1-GW data centre.

On the opening day of the CII Partnership Summit 2025 here on Friday, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) signed an MoU with the AP government to establish a fully modular, future-ready 1-GW AI data centre, designed to host the world's most advanced GPUs, TPUs and AI processors. The pact was signed in the presence of AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu, IT Minister Nara Lokesh, and Reliance Industries Executive Director PMS Prasad. The company is yet to announce the location of the proposed AI data centre, while the facility will operate as a twin to its gigawatt-scale AI data centre in Jamnagar — creating one of Asia's most powerful AI infrastructure networks.

Wholesale inflation drops to 27-month low as food, fuel prices dip

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The annual wholesale inflation fell to (-) 1.21% in October, driven by a sharp decline in prices of food and fuel items along with manufactured products due to a substantial cut in the goods and services tax (GST) rates, official data showed on Friday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation stood 0.13% in September. In October 2024 it stood at 2.75%.

"The negative rate of inflation in October 2025, is primarily due to decrease in prices of food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, electricity, mineral oils and manufacture of basic metals etc," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement.

A sharp deflation in food items at 5.0% in October 2025 (at a record low in the 2011-12 series) led to the wholesale prices swinging back to deflation after a gap of two months and at a 27-month low, said Paras Jasrai, Associate Director at India Ratings and Research.

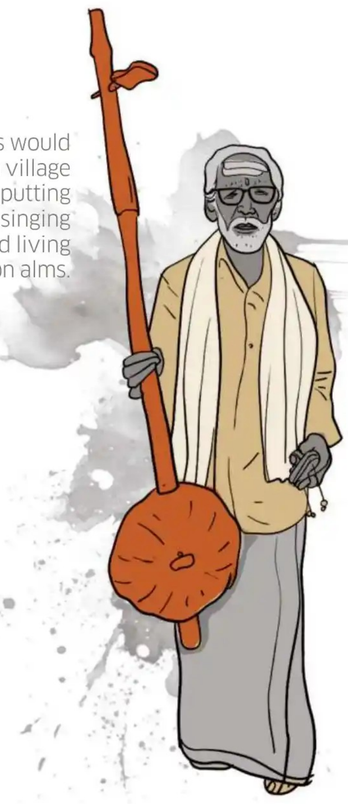
Price of vegetables in the wholesale market during the month of October was 35% lower when compared with the same month last year. Pulses became cheaper by 16.5%, fruits by 7% and cereals by 1.1%.

The fuel and power segment also recorded deflation of 2.6% in October 2025, marking the seventh consecutive month of decline.

The Budbudike community was known for playing a small drum as they walked the streets telling fortunes or announcing news.

The Kole Basava community roamed the streets with decorated bulls, entertaining people and offering blessings in exchange for alms.

After bird hunting was outlawed in the 1970s, the Hakki Pikki tribe turned to selling herbal medicines and spices.



Dombi Dasas would move from village to village, putting up plays and singing songs, and living on alms.

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

THE NOMADIC LIFE

Being everywhere, being nowhere

With space shrinking for the itinerant life, nomadic communities are trying to fit into a world built for the settled. The 'mainstream' can't understand them, and they find even getting an Aadhaar card an ordeal, writes Sadananda R

The Dombi Dasas have been entertainers since time immemorial. Moving from village to village, they put up plays and sang songs, living on alms that could range from grains to chickens.

In 2017, I picked up a slim book called 'Alemariya Antharanga' (The Inner Life of a Nomad). It caught my attention for two reasons. It had won an award from the Karnataka Sahitya Academy, and it was said to be the first complete autobiography in Kannada written by someone of nomadic origin. The opening line drew me in: "Appa owned nothing. There was nothing in the whole wide world that he could call his own."

When I met its author, Kuppe Nagaraja of the semi-nomadic Dombi Dasa community, he said, "Everything was ours in a sense. We were free to go wherever we wanted. People respected our singing and acting. They showered us with love. But we owned no land, no houses. We had no schooling, no jobs. It was like we were everywhere, and at the same time, we were nowhere."

In the 1950s-60s, his father was a popular actor and singer in the Hunsur and K R Nagar taluks of Mysuru district. He was their very own Charlie Chaplin. He brought comic flair to every character, as servant, minister, sidekick, angel, or ghost. He would rescue fellow actors who forgot their lines by using Murugu, a coded language unique to their community. His 'joker roles' became so popular that people began calling him 'Kodangaiah'— the one who played the kodangi (jester or clown). The name stuck and even made its way into official records.

The family moved to wherever the rains were good, to places where the villagers might part with some grains. They camped under the trees on the outskirts of the villages, or if a landlord was 'kind', in his backyard. But every family used to have geographical boundaries for performing. "Once, one of my uncles gave the performing rights to a hobli (a revenue unit covering several villages) to his son-in-law as a gift. We were the absolute owners of the world, in a sense," Nagaraja told me.

These performers once brought to life the enchanted worlds of kings and queens, gods and demons, and celestial beings. They put up all-night shows on makeshift stages under peepal trees, outside temples, and in village squares, using saris and panches borrowed from villagers to create improvised costumes. By the 1970s, however, they faced a formidable threat: cinema. Yet the community pushed on. With the advent of satellite television in the 1990s, they lost cultural relevance in rural society. "On the one hand, the agrarian crisis swept through the villages, leaving people with no grains to spare. On the other, TVs and VCRs put an end to traditional performances," Nagaraja explained.

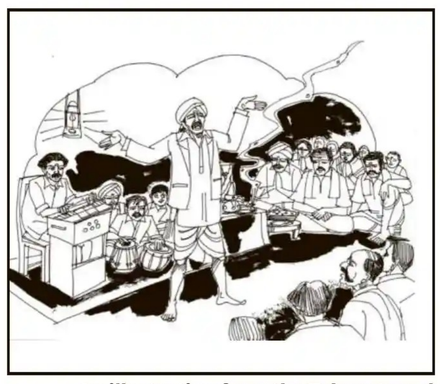
Many in his community now eke out a living by hawking odds and ends. "Seeking alms was not beggary. It was an act of forgoing the ego and seeking alms in the name of god. It was a performance by Dasas, servants of god," he said. The word 'dombi' loosely translates to 'noise' in Kannada, while 'dasa' reflects their spiritual devotion. They are followers of Vishnu.

Nagaraja, now 63, did not follow his family profession as his mother insisted he study. When he sought admission to class 8 in Hunsur, a clerk shouted at him: "Dombi Dasa? I have never heard of it! Why do you people enrol and give us so much trouble?" Nagaraja, then 12, was left sobbing. He never told his friends his caste, and asked his parents not to visit the school. He feared being ridiculed. "We were often called 'henna veshadavru' — men who played women in dramas," he recalled.

A BCom graduate, Nagaraja retired as a Group A officer in the Karnataka government's treasury department. He knows of no one else from his community who has held such a high-ranking position. He was also associated with All Karnataka Association for Nomadic Communities for nearly three decades.

Visibly invisible

My 2018 meeting with Nagaraja grew into a collaboration. I went on to translate his book into English as 'Ekathaari: An Autobiography of a Nomad'. I teach English at a government PU college in Hunsur. I wanted his story to be heard.



An illustration from the Telugu translation of 'Alemariya Antharanga' shows Dombi Dasa performers playing to packed village audiences in the 1950s-60s. By the 1990s, their shows had shrunk to invitation-only conferences. Today, the elaborate costumes are gone, and artistes perform only with musical accompaniments like the ekathaari and chitaku thaala. DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

I was intrigued by the duality of belonging yet not belonging, of being visible yet not visible.

In August this year, I watched a person of nomadic origin crying his heart out on TV. He was protesting the Karnataka government's refusal to implement a separate 1% quota for nomadic and semi-nomadic castes, as recommended by the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission. "We are orphans in this numbers-driven democracy. We have neither the numbers nor the political clout to explain our pain to this vast society," he said. According to the commission's survey, 59 of the 101 SC castes have been categorised as 'most backward'. Most of these 59 castes are nomadic and semi-nomadic.

Fighting prejudice

The status of nomadic and semi-nomadic castes varies; some were once considered untouchable.

Growing up in a small village near Tumakuru, I often saw groups of 20-25 people living under two large banyan trees on the outskirts. When I asked my elders who they were, they would say "alemarigalu" (nomads). I must have been seven when I saw them come to our door for alms, singing and playing the harmonium. Every day, I passed those banyan trees on my way to school but the elders had strictly warned me not to speak to these families.

By the time I reached my teens, the neighbouring city of Tumakuru had absorbed our village, and the people camping under the banyan trees had vanished. I often looked for them. I had so many questions. While I lived under an asbestos roof, with separate rooms for cooking and sleeping, they cooked, ate, and slept under the tree canopy. When it rained, they took shelter in temples and abandoned buildings. They carried a few things, like aluminium and clay pots, mats, and old saris that they would tie to tree branches to cradle their infants. I never saw the older children go to school or play with others from the village.

In my late teens, I started reading books on social inequality. I met a person of nomadic origin at a study camp organised by a group that took inspiration from socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia. He belonged to the Handi Jogi community. One day, our conversation turned to his family. "My people tend pigs. People love our pork and come looking for it. Our homes are on the fringes of villages. Their eyes fall on the pigs, but they never notice how small our huts are," he said. The year was 1995. By then, he was studying law, and I was pursuing a course in literature. He credited his father's "foresight" and "daredevilry" that allowed him and his two elder brothers to get so far in their education.

In the late 1980s, his family lived on the outskirts of a large village near Chikkamagaluru. As far as he could recall, it was their fourth or fifth temporary home. His brothers were bright students and had managed to continue their schooling despite "gaps here and there". This time, they were particularly fortunate. Their settlement was near a government high school, and a teacher had taken an interest in them. Both brothers cleared their Class 10 public exams.

Their success, he recalled, angered some upper-caste families whose children had failed. "How dare a pig herder's children pass! If they are not taught a lesson today, who knows what may happen tomorrow?" — such warnings began circulating in the village. His father got wind of it. Under the cover of darkness, the family slipped out of the village. They walked all night, boarded a train, and reached Tumakuru, about 250 km away. My friend joined a government high school, and his brothers enrolled in a government PU college. One of his brothers went on to complete his MBBS, becoming the first medical doctor from the Handi Jogi caste. My friend is now an advocate practising at the Karnataka high court.

Cut off from society

The Dombi Dasa community, Nagaraja says, was content with a nomadic life. However, changes in the 1970s and '80s, such as land grants to landless families, housing sites for the homeless, and assistance to build homes, disrupted their way of life. "Our people didn't know how to till the land. They lacked the knowledge to become farmers. Even when the government allotted land to us in the late 1980s, many didn't claim it; it went against their traditional way of life. The unclaimed lands were later distributed to poor families from other castes," he explained.

This reluctance to accept land was also rooted in centuries of marginalisation. For instance, Nagaraja's family feared that accepting government benefits would anger the dominant castes who had been 'kind' to them, without recognising that such kindness existed within a status quo that kept communities like theirs in poverty.

Even schooling clashed with their nomadic lifestyle. Shivanna, who has taught children from nomadic communities at state-run residential schools in Hunsur for almost three decades, recalled: "In the 1970s, no nomadic students came to our school. Later, one or two arrived, often only after officials persuaded their families to send them. Reaching these families was difficult. They moved every few days. For the children, interacting with others in a school setting was terrifying. Many would run away within a day or two. Some were withdrawn by their parents as they prepared to migrate again."

Folklore expert Kuruva Basavaraju describes nomadic communities as "the eternal orphans of our society". Those who relied on animals for entertainment, like the Dombaru and Kardiyatadavaru, suffered when such practices were outlawed. Communities that performed mythological roles and sought alms, like the Hagalu Veshadavaru, struggled against modern entertainment and the shrinking of public spaces where they once performed. Some turned to selling bindis, picking rags, and repairing umbrellas, but even these livelihoods are becoming obsolete. "With newer models of gas stoves and umbrellas entering the market, those who took up repair work are struggling again," said Nagaraja. He added that the nomadic communities who were once deemed untouchable have suffered the most. As a result, some groups became disconnected from the rest of society.

This reality was brought home to me by a student two years ago. She hailed from the nomadic Hakki Pikki community, which now sells herbal medicines — their traditional occupation of bird hunting was outlawed in the 1970s. Occasionally, a few girls from this community enrol at the college where I teach, but most drop out. They are forced to travel to distant places, as far as Africa, with their parents to sell medicines. Unlike most, this girl was about to complete her studies. She was bright. When I asked about her future, she said, "I won't continue my education, sir. We have loans to clear. My mother says education doesn't help us. No one from our colony has a government job. Neighbours in the village won't accept us if we take up jobs."

Her colony was set up by the government in the late 1970s near Hunsur to rehabilitate Hakki Pikkis. Half a century later, the community still lives as an island unto itself. The globe-trotting Hakki Pikkis face other challenges as well. Their traditional medicine is not legally recognised, often putting them at odds with authorities and leading to legal problems. Her mother was imprisoned in an African country; efforts to secure her release were underway while the girl wrote her exams. Her marks card still remains unclaimed.

Where's the proof?

Modernity itself is hardly nomad-friendly, demanding identities and proof that they exist. "Many lack documents like ration cards and Aadhaar because they have no permanent housing. Even those with documents struggle. Mistakes during enumeration can place them in entirely different categories. Dombi Dasa, residing primarily in south Karnataka, is classified as a backward caste, while Chenna Dasa, primarily in north Karnataka, is listed as a scheduled caste," Nagaraja says.

For Venkataswamaiah, a Dombi Dasa elder in his seventies, the struggle for recognition is not merely bureaucratic. Since childhood, he has captivated villages with puranic tales, passing on their teachings through his art. Today, he is one of only three practising performers left in Shanubhoganahalli, a village he describes as a cultural hub for his community. Yet when he approached the Kannada and Culture department to avail of its artiste pension scheme a year ago, he was asked to provide proof: photographs of performances and attestations from cultural organisations. "Can't they see I am an artiste? This is not my profession but my way of life. What's there to prove?" he asked, dejected, gazing at his ekathaari, the one-stringed instrument.

Like this story?
Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

An Indian folk tune that has won global appeal

The success of Tech Panda x Kenzani's new track is indicative of folktronica's popularity, writes Swarna Srikanth

Old folk tunes are finding new life through Delhi-based duo Tech Panda (Rupinder Nanda) x Kenzani (Kedar Santwani). Their latest release 'Jija' is a testament to what they do best — blending traditional tunes with electronica.

Centred around popular Punjabi gidda song 'Jeeja kalrha kyun aaya', the folktronica piece cloaks Punjabi vocals with synths and percussion to make an ebullient track, deeply rooted in desi spirit.

"When we heard the lyrics of this track, it was an instant 'aha!' moment for us. The vocals were deeply rooted in Indian ethos; tonal textures and expressions of Punjabi folk music pulled us in from the very first note," says Tech Panda.

Kenzani shares that they started with the intention of invoking nostalgia, and built the structure of the track around that very feeling — something reminiscent of forgotten folk tunes. "We have grown up listening to this song, and it evokes a certain emotional response that we wanted our production to incite as well. It's nostalgic, but very fresh and uplifting at the same time," says the musician.

The duo was engaged in tons of trial and error while crafting the basslines, after which was born something intentional yet organic, even enjoyed by listeners who did not understand the language. Be it clubs or weddings, the song has the potential to make people hit the dance floor. Especially with the bhajan clubbing trend, the duo notes that audiences today are increasingly drawn toward esoteric sounds.

Tech Panda X Kenzani's track 'Jija' is inspired by Punjabi gidda song 'Jeeja kalrha kyun aaya'.

"They want to connect with music on more than just a physical level. There's immense potential for Indian electronica to make waves in this space," Tech Panda says while mentioning that one of the first artistes they drew inspiration from was the US-based producer Govinda, who often incorporated chants and hymns into his work.

The duo states that folktronica is niche and yet winning the hearts of the audience. After travelling across the world, from Australia to Spain and Germany, showcasing modern Indian dance music, they say, "Folktronica has a global following. Artistes like Four Tet and Black Coffee are bringing the folk sounds of their nationalities to international stages and receiving rave reviews. The genre is here not just to stay but to evolve too. What started out as a fun experiment using sounds has now become a worldwide sensation."

What can fans expect before 2025 ends, we ask. "Year-ends are usually packed with tours and shows, but this time we are especially looking forward to seeing our track 'Jija' take centre stage at clubs, festivals, and even weddings. We are also creating a show experience for all the fans and listeners," the duo concludes.

CAUGHT YOU!

Gaurav regrets breaking a school rule, but can he get away with it? Suryakumari Dennison tells you if trouble follows

"Take out your books" said the teacher, and Gaurav made haste to comply. As he rummaged in his bag, a mobile phone fell out.

Sheetal, who sat beside him, retrieved it swiftly. "Are you mad?" she demanded, under her breath. "You know this is strictly forbidden. What if Tomcat sees it?"

Thus, irreverently, did Sheetal refer to Thomas sir, who was holding forth on a place that sounded like an exotic unlocking device. "Key West, in Florida," he explained, "is the southernmost city in the contiguous United States. Now, when we say contiguous, or conterminous, which two American states are not included?"

"Alaska and Hawaii, Sir," said Leena, jumping up to answer. Thomas sir beamed. "Very good, Leena," he said. The girl sat down, looking like the proverbial cat that got the cream.

"Always so pleased with herself," muttered Sheetal.

"Sheetal, do you have any knowledge of Key West?" demanded Thomas sir coldly. He was aptly called Tomcat. Not only did his name, Thomas Kathiran, lend itself to that sobriquet, but he had keen, feline-like sight and hearing. Thomas sir taught geography, but he was also a literature enthusiast. He proceeded to talk about Ernest Hemingway, who had lived in Key West for several years. With the possible exception of Leena, none of the students had heard of that distinguished author.

"We have 'miles to go' before we complete the portions for the mid-term exam," declared Thomas sir, as the bell rang.

"Sir, you are quoting Robert Frost," said Leena brightly, earning an approving nod from the teacher, on his way out.

"You think you know a lot, don't you?" said Sheetal, sarcastically to Leena.

"More than you think I know," said Leena cryptically, casting a meaningful glance at Gaurav. She walked away, with a spring in her step, and Gaurav earnestly wished he had left his phone at home. He would be in serious trouble if it was found on him at school.

During the lunch break, Gaurav, Sheetal, and a small trusted group assembled in a secluded area of the schoolyard, where Gaurav displayed his prized possession. "I just got it yesterday," he said, "and couldn't resist the urge to bring it here. Yes, I know..." he went on, as Sheetal shook her head, "it was both wrong and stupid of me. I'll never do it again."

"Caught you!" exclaimed someone triumphantly. The children swung round, and to their horror, saw Leena eyeing Gaurav's phone. The brightest girl at school was the biggest tattletale, and she had crept up quietly behind them. "I thought I saw you drop your phone, Gaurav," she said, "but I wasn't certain; so I followed you all, and now I have evidence."

Gaurav was aghast. Leena had a tiresome way of acquainting teachers with snippets of news such as, "Meera copied Chetan's history homework," and "Shobha helped her brother with his project." Leena had recently told Sonia ma'am that although Vikas had come to school, he was absent for English. Leena had omitted to add that Vikas had been catching up on chemistry, which he had missed when he was unwell. Fortunately, Vikas had earlier taken Sonia ma'am's permission to study that subject in the library.

If Leena told a teacher about Gaurav's misdemeanour, the matter would go to the Principal, who would call Gaurav's parents. They would immediately confiscate the phone.

"Ready to meet Thomas sir, Gaurav?" asked Leena, with a smirk.

"Don't snitch on me, Leena," begged Gaurav, close to tears. "Remember Portia's speech on mercy, in Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice', which you recite so well? I know I am to blame, but I'm sorry. Be kind, this one time."

"Anyone who commits an offence should be held accountable," said Leena smugly.

"You are absolutely right, Leena," agreed Sheetal, to Gaurav's shock and dismay. "Let us go straight to Thomas sir. After handing him Gaurav's phone, you can show him that Rs 500 note sticking out of your pocket. You are aware, of course, that we are not allowed to bring anything more than Rs 50 to school. Anyway, as you have rightly reminded us, we should face the consequences of our crimes. Justice, not mercy, should prevail," said Sheetal. Terrified at the thought of losing her money, Leena fled.

"You are wonderful, Sheetal," said Gaurav gratefully, as the two of them and their friends walked briskly back to class.

2 DIY bookmarks using paper

...and simple stationery

Animal bookmark

Materials needed

- Coloured cardstock or thick paper
- Pencil
- Black marker or pen
- Scissors or craft cutter
- Glue

Method

- To make the base, take a rectangle of cardstock (approx 5 cm x 10 cm).
- On the top half of the rectangle, lightly sketch a simple animal face (like a tiger or cat) with a pencil.
- Add features like eyes, nose, whiskers, and stripes.
- To create movable arms, draw small rectangles or shapes for arms/paws, on the sides of the rectangle's lower half. Carefully cut along the outline of the arms with a craft cutter so they can be folded.
- Use a black pen or marker to trace the face and arm details for clarity. Draw lines for stripes, claws, or facial features.
- Fold the arms outward so they can "hold" the page corner.
- Place your bookmark on a page and adjust the arms to fit snugly.
- You can add googly eyes to give the bookmarks a fun look.

Corner pumpkin

Materials needed

- A square or origami paper
- Coloured paper (orange, white and green)
- Black marker or pen
- Glue stick
- Scissors

Method

- Take a square piece of paper for the bookmark base. Fold it in half to make a rectangle.
- Fold the rectangle in half again to make a smaller square. Take the top layer of the small square and fold it diagonally to form a triangular flap.
- Open the triangular flap. Apply glue to the flap and press the triangular parts together so they stick. This creates a pocket. Glue the outer folds and let it dry.
- Cut a pumpkin shape from orange paper and glue it onto the front of the folded triangle.
- Cut two small white circles for eyes, glue them onto the pumpkin, and draw pupils with a black marker.
- Draw a cute smiling or funny mouth on the pumpkin using the marker.
- Cut a small green triangle or rectangle for the stem and glue it to the top of the pumpkin. Let it dry. Your bookmark is ready.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic: 'Should high-school students choose the subjects they learn?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on November 27. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

waylay

(verb)
to wait for and then stop someone, especially either to attack or talk to that person

Usage:
— I was waylaid by traffic on my way to the airport.
— Eliza was waylaid by her colleagues when she was leaving the office.

A scene from MY WINDOW...

Open Sesame readers describe the sights they see through verse

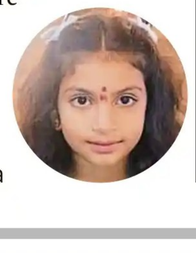
Peaceful moment

A square of light, the glass defines,
where mornings gentle drama shines
Across the street the willow sways
Through a misty, soft, autumnal haze.
A single car slides slowly by
Beneath a quiet watchful sky
The milkman's song floats faintly near
A sound of comfort, banishing fear
On the roof's edge, a pigeon rests
Unfurling secrets from its nest
This simple frame, a world I see
A peaceful moment given to me.

LAAIBAH ASNA, 11
Hubballi, Karnataka

Nature's beauty

As the day breaks.
And the sun rises,
I rise up early
To open my window.
I feel delighted,
To see Nature's beauty;
To see the rising sun,
To hear the melody of chirping birds.
I feel joyous to see the blue sky,
And white clouds here and there,
Fresh air entering my window,
Filling with coolness everywhere.



KASHVI K, 8
Bengaluru, Karnataka

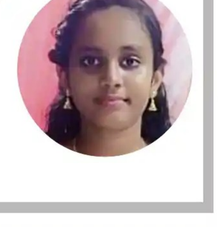
Early morning sights

A scene from my window
Early in the morning,
I am fascinated by the sight;
Of the bright red sun rising,
And the chirping birds at flight.
I could see the park nearby,
Which people visit to take a walk,
And also jog and exercise,
To keep themselves physically fit.
I could see the milkman,
With milk-filled can,
And the newspaper boys
With a bundle of newspapers.

DHRUV K, 6
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Feeling trapped

I stared at the blue sky,
while time was ticking by.
The trees waved in the cool breeze,
I never found my ease.
The birds flew so high,
I never got to say goodbye.
The dry leaves fell from the tree,
fading like pain that won't be free.
People walked here and there,
but none of them seemed to care.
Anger had me trapped
in a storm from which I can't be freed.



PRAJNA VERNEKAR, 13
Udupi, Karnataka

ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'The world in 2050' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on November 20.

This Week:

Noteworthy novelist

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 Born on November 13, 1850, Robert Louis Stevenson, dedicated 'A Child's Garden of Verses' to someone whom he describes as "the angel of my infant life". What was the person's name?

Q2 Stevenson's 'Kidnapped', a work of historical fiction, first appeared in serial form, in 1886. Which sequel to that novel continues the story of its young protagonist, David Balfour?

Q3 Stevenson spent his last years in Samoa, an island country in the South Pacific Ocean. What native name (Samoan for 'Teller of Tales') was he known by there?

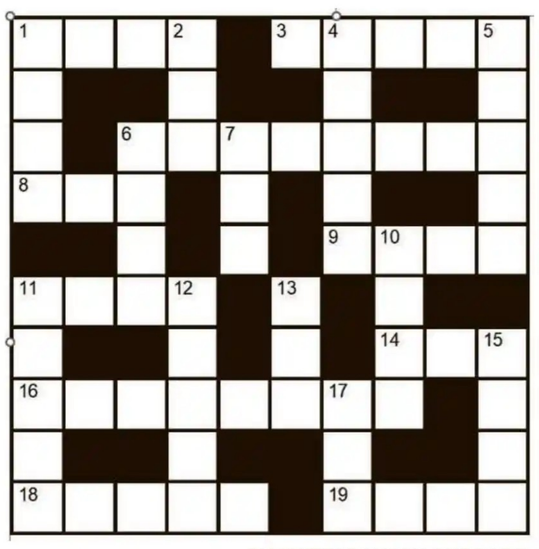
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: In a novella by Stevenson, Dr Jekyll is also Mr __.
Clue B: Made a false statement.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Which city was the birthplace of Robert Louis Stevenson? Use these clues.
a) Firth of Forth
b) Walter Scott
c) Pentland Hills
d) Palace of Holyrood

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: R Prema (12), Bengaluru; Asavari Majumdar (13), Bengaluru; Hema Maulini C R (11), Bengaluru.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across

1 Bone in the forearm (4)
3 Float with the current (5)
6 Weapon of mass destruction (4,4)
8 Make a mistake (3)
9 Molten volcanic rock (4)
11 Dread (4)
14 Something that does not work (3)
16 Bone of the jaw (8)
18 Shaving implement (5)
19 No longer alive (4)

Down

1 Encourage strongly (4)
2 Perform in a play (3)
4 Revolt against authority (5)
5 Bone of the shin (5)
6 Mathematical measurement of a surface (4)
7 Rowing implement (3)
10 Assistant (4)
11 Bone of the thigh (5)
12 Wireless receiver (5)
13 Poke (3)
15 Action (4)
17 Boy (3)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Ulna, 3 Drift, 6 Atom bomb, 8 Err, 9 Lava, 11 Fear, 14 Dud, 16 Mandible, 18 Razor, 19 Dead.
Down: 1 Urge, 2 Act, 4 Rebel, 5 Tibia, 6 Area, 7 Oar, 10 Aide, 11 Femur, 12 Radio, 13 Jab, 15 Deed, 17 Lad.

I'm proud of my choices and my resilience: Chaithra J Achar

The Kannada actor known for her roles in 'SSE' and 'Toby', is all set to debut in Telugu in a film starring Prabhas. The journey is exciting, she tells
Pranati A S

Chaithra J Achar, known for playing Surabhi in 'Saptha Sagaradaache Ello: Side B' (SSE), will now make her debut in Telugu cinema with 'Fauzi'. She will be seen in a major role in the film, which also stars Prabhas. "It is a meaty character," she shares.

The actor has her hands full with numerous films across the South Indian film industries.

In Kannada, she will be seen in 'Marnami', slated for release on November 21. She is also doing a "quirky" movie with Shakti, a young director. It is being produced by Suram Movies, which produced 'Nidradevi Next Door'.

Chaithra was last seen in the Tamil movie '3 BHK', where she was cast opposite Siddharth. She is currently working on Raju Murugan's 'My Lord', which also features Sasikumar, in addition to a webseries and a film, both of which are untitled and under production.

She speaks to Showtime about her various roles, how she approaches them, and her journey in the industry.

Chaithra J Achar

"I played a girl with cerebral palsy"

Chaithra recalls her character Nancy from 'Gilki', one her favourite roles. "I played a girl with cerebral palsy. It was a love story between a mentally challenged boy and Gilki, who is physically challenged, but mentally sharp. This character stays very close to me because of the various challenges it came with," she says.

"I'm usually spontaneous while playing a role"

Talking about how she prepares for a role, she says she is more of a "go there and figure it out kind of a person". "I'm usually spontaneous while playing a role and director Hemant (M Rao, whom she worked with on 'SSE') would always tell me that spontaneity is my USP and I should never change that," she adds.

"I think a lot about the characters — why is she behaving in a particular way, why should she and why is it important. And I ask the directors a lot of questions. If there is a scene where the character has to interact with someone, I need to know what she has done before? Where is she coming from? It is not in the script. It need not be in the script. But it gives perspective," she says.

"I was told not to judge the characters I do"

While working in Hemanth's 'SSE: Side B', where she played a sex worker, she met a lot of sex workers to understand her role. "I had all kinds of questions for them. Among them was if they had ever fallen in love. One lady responded 'How many do you want?' She had perhaps experienced it many times," Chaithra chuckles. "I wanted to understand their vulnerabilities, how their relationships ended and if they were ready to fall in love again." Their inputs and Hemanth's vision sculpted Surabhi.

"Many actors have told me not to judge the characters I play. Even if she is murdering someone, you must stand in her position to understand her actions," she shares, adding, "That is what I told myself when I played Surabhi."

"Friends told me to remove the mole on my face"

Chaithra says it has been a "struggle" to get to where she is now. "I had to fight with my family and bear the unsolicited opinions of relatives to get here. My family is academically oriented. They did not expect that one of them would choose a career in films. They were ill-informed about the industry and worried for my safety. I was even slut-shamed," she recalls. Returning home late at night after a shoot caused her mom to worry about what the neighbours would think.

Chaithra also recalls how her friends commented on her skin colour and told her it was not suitable for the movies. "Some even suggested I remove the mole on my face. But the directors I worked with assured me that 'it's a character by itself'," she laughs.

(Read full interview online)

The many colours of Vande mataram

Bankim Chandra's evocative poem has inspired hundreds of tunes and renderings. Events across the country celebrate its 150th year, writes
S R Ramakrishna

A R Rahman's album 'Vande Mataram' was released in 1997 to commemorate the 50th year of independence. A grab from the video of 'Maa tujhe salaam', a popular song from the album.

Bankim Chandra's poem 'Vande mataram' has taken many avatars since it first appeared in a literary magazine in 1875. He incorporated it into his novel 'Anandmath' in 1882. Many composers, including Master Krishnarao, Hemant Kumar and A R Rahman, have created tunes for it. The tunes range from the prayerful to the rousing, spanning styles as diverse as raga and rock.

Some of the earliest tunes, such as the one composed by Pandit Jadunath Bhattacharya soon after it was written, are lost. The version sung on November 7 in Delhi, in the presence of the prime minister, marks a return to a style popularised by All India Radio. Mysore Manjunath, the renowned violinist, conducted an orchestra of classical musicians rendering the song in raga Desh. It is estimated that at least a hundred versions of 'Vande mataram' exist. Even when the full song is not sung, the refrain is used in literature, theatre and cinema to represent the nationalist sentiment. The government has announced year-long celebrations to honour the song in its 150th year.

The earliest recordings of 'Vande mataram', including the ones sung by Master Krishnarao and Pandit V D Paluskar, are based on ragas popular in Hindustani music. Karnatik music icon M S Subbulakshmi has sung a couple of versions. Pandit Omkarnath Thakur sings the song in raga Kafi, with classical ornamentations and without any rhythmic accompaniment. Quite a few of these versions are available on YouTube. When we hear them today, amid the profusion of styles the song is explored in, they sound like classical compositions rich in raga improvisation. More recent anthems, including the Kuvempu poem sung in Karnataka as the state anthem, refrain from any improvisation — they are composed to a strict structure, and crafted in a manner that makes it easy for everyone to sing. Raga elaboration calls for a degree of formal training and mastery.

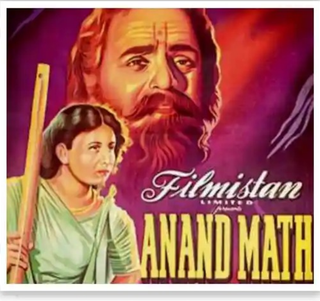
Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.

The origins of the most popular version yet, sung on All India Radio, is shrouded in mystery — was it Pandit Ravi Shankar, who worked for AIR, Pandit V R Athavale, who headed the Delhi station of AIR, or a musician whose name everyone has forgotten? Based on Desh, a raga that must have suggested itself for a song about the nation, it is a serene contemplation. Time is marked, but it is not march-like.

The tune composed and sung by Hemant Kumar, with a reprise by Lata Mangeshkar, is more upbeat in its approach. Featured in the film 'Anandmath' (1952), it plays on the commercial channel of AIR alongside other film songs. In 1997, A R Rahman's album 'Vande Mataram' featured multiple versions of the song, including one in Tamil. 'Maa tujhe salaam,' which he sang, sounds way more aggressive than the AIR tune we had heard for decades.

'Vande mataram' was widely sung as a protest during the freedom movement, and the British had banned it. Rabindranath Tagore and others sang it and at the Congress conventions. When independent India had to choose a national anthem, it was seen as a natural choice, but it lost to 'Jana gana mana'. Not everyone was in favour of 'Vande mataram'. Since the 1930s, it had run into opposition from Muslim leaders who found stanzas praising the Hindu goddess Durga making it religious and thus unacceptable. Jinnah was among those who opposed the song. One of the points raised, to stop it from becoming the national anthem, was that the novel had anti-Muslim undertones. Another was that the tunes did not lend themselves to Western orchestration and the military band style. Master Krishnarao, it is said, was upset by this argument, and composed several tunes that could be adapted to an orchestral style.

The story goes that Bankim Chandra, who served as a civil servant in the British government, was upset at the British insistence on 'God save the King', and wrote 'Vande mataram' as an answer to the colonial anthem. Written in Sanskrit and Bengali, it has travelled a long way, although, like 'We shall overcome', it hasn't travelled wide. In 1950, the Constituent Assembly left out the verses considered offensive by Muslims, and recommended that the first two verses, which intensely evoke the beauty of the land, for public rendering. It also placed 'Vande mataram' on a par with 'Jana gana mana'. The BJP looks at the excision as a 'Nehruvian distortion'. Some of the dust has settled, but the song will continue to remain a point of political debate.



Hemant Kumar's tune was featured in 'Anandmath' (1952)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

MOVIE REVIEWS

Warm, occasionally dark, portrait of family life

SWEEKRUTHI K

The movie features an endearing brother-sister duo.

★★★½

In Your Dreams
English (Netflix)
Director: Alex Woo
Cast: Craig Robinson, Simu Liu, Cristin Milioti, Jolie Hoang-Rappaport

In a style very reminiscent of Pixar's various offerings, comes a Netflix original that is short, sweet and full of fun — an ideal family weekend watch. 'In Your Dreams' features an endearing brother-sister duo grappling with fears about their family and future, in both, a dream world and in reality.

The film was directed by Alex Woo, who previously worked as a storyboard artist on Pixar's 'Ratatouille', 'WALL-E' and 'Cars 2'. No wonder then, that 'In Your Dreams' seems like a distant spin-off of 'Inside Out', at certain points, and 'Coco' at others.

What does manage to set the film apart is a strong script — the opening scene holds a great deal of promise, for a funny, intriguing narration. However, the film does fail to hold interest throughout, with some characters and jokes beginning to seem grating.

But there are several saving graces. The soundtrack is cheery, engaging and familiar in a good way. Dance sequences and serious montages alike are lifted by this background score. It also cuts through the slower middle part of the movie.

What must be praised is how the film depicts a realistic family context — parents that may disagree with each other, children that feel an unfair burden of fixing conflicts, and uncertainty about the future. A great deal of effort has gone into the storywriting, to ensure the mix of comedy and adventure does not take away from the heaviness and anxieties of the overarching theme. The resolution also demonstrates how striving for a perfect version of reality could backfire. In all, the film offers a simple, comforting message — even if your family has flaws, there is hope that things will work out in the end.

The themes, though discussed with nuance, are quite intense and may not be suitable for very young viewers. Scenes of the dream world, nightmares and the Sandman are dark and shadowy, so discretion is advised.

Delhi Crime returns in contemplative avatar

RASHMI VASUDEVA

Shefali Shah plays a cop in the series.

★★★½

Delhi Crime S 3
Hindi (Netflix)
Director: Tanuj Chopra
Cast: Shefali Shah, Huma Qureshi, Rasika Dugal

Season 3 of 'Delhi Crime' begins deceptively quietly. Clouds scatter to reveal the green beauty of Silchar in Assam, and as the rains come pouring down, a routine truck interception leads to the discovery of young girls being herded like cattle. As Vartika Chaturvedi (Shefali Shah) and team start digging, what at first appears to be an isolated incident morphs into a multi-state, chillingly efficient trafficking ring.

Meanwhile, a child who has been severely assaulted is abandoned at a Delhi hospital. While she battles for her life, the strands of her story are being linked to the larger evil that's afoot, leaving the police scrambling for answers.

Any multi-series producer will tell you how extraordinarily challenging it is to maintain momentum, season after relentless season. 'Delhi Crime 3' does a competent job of it, one must admit. The plot has meat, the perpetrators are disturbingly ruthless, and there is much emotional depth to be explored. Thankfully, despite the subject matter, there is restraint, and the scenes never turn gratuitous. The narrative is not as quicksilver as the previous season, but its contemplative pace does not feel out of place. One or two subplots and detours into backstories could have been avoided, but that's just a minor grouse.

Shefali Shah is, as always, fantastic in her anger, her exhaustion, her determination and her quiet grief. Huma Qureshi, who plays the cut-throat Badi Dadi, gets the menace right, while the supporting cast is solid in its support. Always a pleasure to see scene-stealers Rasika Dugal and Mita Vashishth on screen.

Suni should return to simple dramas

PRANATI A S

★★½

Gatha Vaibhava
Kannada (Theatres)
Director: Simple Suni
Cast: Ashika Ranganath, Dushyanth Servegara Srinivas, Krishna Hebbale

Ashika and Dushyanth play star-crossed lovers.

Simple Suni, in his latest offering, 'Gatha Vaibhava', goes a little overboard to create an elaborate spread, and falters on many levels.

The movie begins with Adhunika's (played by Ashika Ranganath) relentless search for a man she imagined in her painting. The man is the film's male protagonist Purathan (Dushyanth Servegara Srinivas). He goes to meet her and she tells him about how the two were lovers in a previous birth, or should I say births? The movie then takes us on a trip down memory lane where we see three past lives — their unrequited love in their first life set during the time of Samudhra Manthana (Ocean Churning) from Hindu mythology forces them to take birth again and again until they reunite for eternity.

One of the stories in 'Gatha Vaibhava' — the one featuring Mangala and Srinivas — is proof of why Suni must stick to simple love stories. Although predictable and a bit old fashioned, the particular story carries more weight than the rest of the film. It reminds you of the good old love stories when lovers eagerly waited for letters from their loved ones. Heartwarming.

A whole sequence featuring a Portuguese man's quest to find a sea route to India seemed so unnecessary that it will make you roll your eyes, each time they come up with something that they think is funny. And whoever created the sets of the Devaloka!

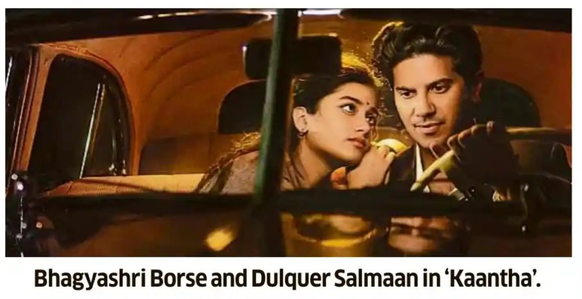
Ashika delivers a convincing performance. And Dushyanth made sure 'subtlety' went on a long vacation.

Dulquer shines as a '50s star in thriller

JAGADISH ANGADI

★★★★½

Kaantha
Tamil (Theatres)
Director: Selvamani Selvaraj
Cast: Dulquer Salmaan, Rana Daggubati , Samuthirakani, Bhagyashri Borse, Ravindra Vijay, Nizhagal Ravi


Bhagyashri Borse and Dulquer Salmaan in 'Kaantha'.

Film journalist C N Lakshmikanthan was murdered in 1944 for writing scandalous stories of Tamil film stars. M K Thyagaraja Bhagavathar (MKT) and N S Krishnan, the two stars of the era, were arrested in the case. They were later acquitted. Though in the closing credits, the makers acknowledge sources from three works of art, 'Kaantha' has references to the life and downfall of MKT, the first superstar of Tamil cinema.

It begins with a murder, setting the tone for the rest of the story. Ayya (Samuthirakani), a legendary director, is trying to make a movie 'Shaantha'. Things get complicated when the producer insists he bring in T K Mahadevan (Dulquer Salmaan), a famous star. 'Kaantha' revolves around the strained relationship between Ayya and Mahadevan, who was once Ayya's protégé. Ayya uses Raja Kumari (Bhagyashri Borse), the film's heroine, to bring Mahadevan down a peg. This sets off a chain of events changing their lives.

The film delves into the darker aspects of fame, exploring themes of ego, emotional turmoil, revenge, and the blurring of moral lines. It portrays the psychological unraveling that can come with success, leaving the characters questioning their own sanity and values.

Stunning visuals perfectly capture the essence of 1950s Madras. The recreated studios, songs, and scandals transport the audience back in time. Jhanu Chanthar's sound design and Dani Sanchez-Lopez's cinematography perfectly capture the essence of the era. The composition, seamlessly blends period melodies with a haunting background score amplifying the psychological tension.

Dulquer delivers his career's best performance. Samuthirakani is compelling with his restrained acting, while Rana Daggubati and Bhagyashri are convincing.

Six classics with children

Showtime revisits timeless films for Children's Day. It is celebrated on Nov 14

The Traveller (1974)
This Abbas Kiarostami classic is about a school boy who is neglected by his parents. All he dreams of is to accumulate enough money to take a bus ride to a big city and watch his favourite soccer team play. If he has to lie and steal, he will. *On Mubi*

Kummatty (1979)
Based on folklore, G Aravindan's film tells the tale of a mysterious wanderer who visits a village in Kerala. He turns all the children into animals using his sorcery. Through a surrealistic narrative, the film talks about compassion and empathy. *Restored version on YouTube*

Bettada Hoovu (1985)
Directed by N Lakshminarayan, 'Bettada Hoovu' is about Ramu, a poor boy who goes on an expedition to hunt for a mountain flower to earn money to buy a book. *On SunNxt*

Cinema Paradiso (1988)
When a film projectionist from his native town dies, Salvatore, a famous movie director returns after 30 years.

He reminisces about his childhood, his relationship with the projectionist and how he fell in love with cinema. It is directed by Giuseppe Tornatore. *On Amazon Rentals*

The White Balloon (1995)
Director Jafar Panahi follows a seven-year-old girl, who pleads with her mother to buy her a goldfish. When her mother finally gives her the money, she loses it in the market. *On YouTube*

Children of Heaven (1997)
Directed by the legendary filmmaker Majid Majidi, 'Children of Heaven' follows Ali's attempts to get a new pair of shoes for his little sister Zahra, after he misplaces her shoes at a grocery store. *On Apple TV*

(Compiled by Pranati A S)

Rohit to lead junior men in World Cup at home

NEW DELHI, PTI: Drag-flicker Rohit was named captain as Hockey India on Friday announced an 18-member Indian junior men's hockey team for the FIH World Cup to be held in Tamil Nadu from November 28 to December 10.

new delhi, pti: The Indian team, coached by the legendary PR Sreejesh, is grouped in Pool B along with Chile, Switzerland and Oman, who have come in as replacement for Pakistan.

"We have selected a tried-and-tested team with most of the players having a fair knowledge on what's required to play in a tournament of this magnitude," coach Sreejesh said in a release.

"While their physical capabilities, skill and teamplay was among the criteria for selection, one of the key aspects we have looked into is their mental ability to perform under pressure."

The India colts will be led by defender Rohit, who had a good show in the recent Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia where the team won a silver medal, while Bikramjit Singh and Princedeep Singh are the goalkeepers picked in the squad.

India's defence will have captain Rohit, Amir Ali, who was part of the previous edition of the Junior World Cup, along with Anmol Ekka, Ravneet Singh, Talem Priyo Barta, Sunil Palakshappa Bennur and Shardanand Tiwari, who also comes with solid experience in the backline.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Bikramjit Singh, Princedeep Singh.
Defenders: Rohit, Amir Ali, Anmol Ekka, Talem Priyobarta, Sunil Palakshappa Bennur, Shardanand Tiwari.
Midfielders: Ankit Pal, Adrohit Ekka, Thounaojam Ingalemba Luwang, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Gurjot Singh.
Forwards: Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Arshdeep Singh, Ajeet Yadav, Dilraj Singh.

ISL captains sign petitions to be submitted to SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: Twelve Indian Super League captains, including star India players like Sunil Chhetri, Sandesh Jhingan and Lallianzuala Chhangte have signed a petition to be submitted to the Supreme Court regarding the currently paused ISL season, according to sources.

The captains had talked about the petition during an online meeting earlier in the week.

"They have signed the petition and it's likely to be submitted next week," a source privy to the development told PTI.

On November 11, the country's distressed football players had issued a joint statement pleading with the administrators to get the currently paused ISL season underway, saying that their "anger and frustration" has turned into desperation now.

The plea came after the All India Football Federation last week said it did not receive any bids for the commercial rights of the ISL.

Skagen for main event

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

Suleiman Attaollahi-trained Skagen appeals most in the moderate field of six runners in the fray for the Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup, the feature event of the winter races to be run over a mile at the races on Saturday. The first race starts at 1:30 pm.

1. Vidurashwtha Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Ilia 1, Acape 2, Higgs Boson 3.
2. Shimsha Plate - 1400M: Assurances 1, Count Basie 2, Turkoman 3.
3. Hoggenakkal Falls Plate - 1600M: Larissa 1, Adelanto 2, Adornment 3.
4. Hebbal Falls Plate - 1400M: Gandolfini 1, Master Way 2, El Alamein 3.
5. Sports Authority Of India Trophy - 1200M: Flight On 1, Felisa 2, Basilica 3.
6. Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup - 1600M: Skagen 1, Prince Of Wales 2, Darrington 3.
7. Black Caviar Plate - 1400M: Touch Of Grey 1, Kalamitsi 2, Never Give In 3.
8. Vidurashwatha Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Goddess Of War 1, Absolute Katrina 2, Art Of Romance 3.
Day's best: Flight On.
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. **I treble:** 3, 4 & 5. **II treble:** 6, 7 & 8.

TENNIS BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

Upbeat Riya rejects ranking fears

India's No. 3 confident of putting up a strong fight

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Deemed underdogs despite being the hosts at the ongoing Billie Jean King Cup Group G playoffs here, India's Blue-clad contingent finds itself under scrutiny as many wonder whether they can upset heavyweights Slovenia and the Netherlands within a span of 24 hours this weekend.

That concern only grows when stacked against the rankings. Both European teams boast players far higher than any Indian in the fray, including national No. 1 Sahaja Yamalapalli (309). It almost prompts the question of whether India truly belongs at this level, especially with next year's Qualifiers for the Finals on the line. After all, this is only the second time India has reached this stage.

India's No. 3 Riya Bhatia, currently ranked 468 in the world, is quick to remind everyone that the team has earned its place.

"Let's not forget India reached here by finishing runners-up in the Asia/Oceania Group I in Pune (last April)," Riya told *DH*. "The team defeated the likes of Hong Kong, South Korea and Thailand to qualify on merit for the stage. You can only count us out at your peril."

The challenge ahead, however, is immense. Facing players such as Suzan Lamens of the Netherlands (87) and 2021 French Open semifinalist Tamara Zidansek is a tall order for an Indian side that also fell at this stage against Latvia in 2021. While the format has changed since, the presence of two strong European opponents only sharpens the difficulty. Yet, the 28-year-old Bhatia refuses to be bogged down by the numbers, even though only four Indians in the lineup are inside the top 500.

"First of all, I don't believe that ranking matters in team events. Rankings are also the reason why we are seen as the underdogs but Indian players are much better than the ranking suggests. Of course, being inside the top 100 is another ball game all together but given the fact that most of us are on the roads throughout the year -- travelling to Europe and America due to lack of tournaments in India -- ekes a lot out of us.

"It's not a level-playing field in terms of infrastructure at the moment but with familiar conditions on our side, brings us close to them," said Riya, whose last two seasons have been hampered by golfer's elbow.

Given the packed tennis calendar, the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs typically fall at the fag end of the year, after players have navigated the grind of Major events. By this stage, many, used to pursuing individual goals in the isolating world of professional tennis, are running on reserve tanks as they approach the off-season and begin preparing for the Australian Open. Riya, however, believes that representing India in a prestigious competition like the BJK Cup, often called the World Cup of tennis, provides renewed purpose.

"It's true that we come here after grinding it out individually for 30-35 weeks at different locations in the world, seldom getting to meet each other. But this is World Cup of tennis, it's big deal for us. There's no 'I' here, only 'we'. From being opponents for the rest of the year, we become friends.

"Individually in a match, you are figuring out things on your own but at BJK Cup the secret of success may lie from a teammate pointing out a weakness of your opponent during a match," explained Riya.

Riya Bhatia is on a comeback trail after recovering from a golfer's elbow and is showing good promise. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Slovenia slay Netherlands

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Slovenia defeated the Netherlands in the opening Group G tie of the Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs 2-1 on Friday to set hosts India up for a do-or-die match that takes place in less than 24 hours.

World No. 162 Tamara Zidansek and No. 98 Kaja Juvan won the first and second singles ties respectively to seal the victory for Slovenia ahead of their clash against India on Saturday. A similar outcome against the hosts will book their berth in next year's qualifiers, while India and the Netherlands will be relegated to the continental Group I stages, making their Sunday tie inconsequential.

Slovenia's Kaja Juvan celebrates her win over Netherlands' Suzan Lamens at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium on Friday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Results: Slovenia beat Netherlands 2-1 (Tamara Zidansek bt Arantxa Rus 6-1, 7-6 (8/6); Kaja Juvan bt Suzan Lamens 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3; Dalila Jakupovic/Nika Radisic lt to Suzan Lamens/Demi Schuurs 4-6, 0-6).

Jannik Sinner

Sinner maintains clean slate in group phase

TURIN (ITALY), AFP: Jannik Sinner stayed well on course to defend his ATP Finals title on Friday after comfortably beating Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) and completing a perfect group stage.

Italian Sinner took one hour and 35 minutes to see off spirited Shelton who bowed out of his debut Finals in Turin without a win from his three matches in the Bjorn Borg Group.

Chants of Sinner's name rang out loudly around the Inapli Arena as delighted fans hailed their hero, who was all smiles despite losing the year-end world number spot to Carlos Alcaraz.

Sinner will face Alex de Minaur in the first semi-final on Saturday afternoon, when he will be red-hot favourite to reach his third final in as many years at the season-ending tournament.

Alcaraz's No. 1 trophy

Carlos Alcaraz was full of smiles as he lifted the trophy for the year-end No. 1 tennis player on Friday.

After a scintillating tussle with Jannik Sinner, Alcaraz secured the ranking on Thursday by sealing a sweep of his three group-stage matches at the ATP Finals.

"It's a great pleasure for me to be No. 1 in the world again," Alcaraz said. "It's something that I'm working really hard for, with my team every day. It is a journey that you're not going through alone."

Recurve men soar to new heights

Trio of Bhoge, Atanu and Rahul stun Koreans in a pulsating final

DHAKA, PTI

The Indian men's recurve team produced its most stirring performance in recent memory to stun heavyweights South Korea in a nerve-wracking shoot-off to clinch its first Asian Archery Championships gold in 18 years here on Friday.

The trio of Yashdeep Bhoge, Atanu Das and Rahul rallied from 2-4 down to script a dramatic 5-4 victory over a Korean second-string side comprising Seo Mingi, Kim Yechan and Jang Jiho, breaking Korea's stranglehold on the event since 2009.

Both teams shot 29 in the shoot-off, but India were declared winners after Das -- the two-time Olympian who had exited early in the individual event -- delivered an assured 10 that finished closer to the centre than Korea's, sealing India's first Asian Championship men's team gold since 2007.

The result swelled India's tally at the championships to four gold and two silver, with the compound squad having already returned a haul of three gold and two silver on Thursday.

India's compound archers have had a stellar run with Jyothi Surekha Vennam completing a memorable double by winning both the team and individual gold.

It was a deeply emotional moment for recurve men's team coach Rahul Banerjee, a member of that champion 2007 team alongside Mangal Singh Champia and Jayanta Talukdar.

Eighteen years after winning the title as an athlete, the 2010 Commonwealth Games gold-medallist anchored a second triumph, this time with his long-time protege Atanu and his wife Deepika Kumari in the squad.

Atanu, who topped national trials to earn selection and make Banerjee the men's team coach, fittingly hit the decisive arrow. "It's really fulfilling as a coach as we defeated Korea and didn't choke. Atanu and I were discussing last night that we have not won a gold for a long time and it's finally fulfilled. The next target is Asian Games definitely," Banerjee told PTI from Dhaka.

Korea may have arrived without their legendary Olympic champion Kim Woojin, but the side still featured quality talent.

Seo Mingi topped national trials, Kim Yechan is a 20-year-old Chengdu University Games gold-medallist, and Jang Jiho rounded out a promising trio.

Banerjee was quick to underline that pedigree.

"They are not their top-three archers but after the World Championships they had the trial for Asians and these were picked. As far as my knowledge is concerned, they are their top four, five, six archers."

(From left) Yashdeep Bhoge, Atanu Das & Rahul celebrate after winning the men's team recurve gold at the Asian Archery Championships in Dhaka on Friday. X

Esha shoots bronze in 25m pistol for first WC medal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Indian shooter Esha Singh clinched her maiden individual World Championship medal -- a bronze in the women's 25m pistol but Paris Olympics medallist Manu Bhaker yet again missed out on a podium finish, here on Friday.

The Indian shot a score of 30 in the final, to finish behind in-form Chinese Yao Qianxun (silver, score: 38) and Korea's reigning Olympic Champion Yang Jiin (gold, score: 40).

Esha's effort came as India wrapped up engagements in the 10-Olympic events on schedule at the ongoing tournament with a historic haul of one gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

Overall, India lie third on the table with three gold, five silver and four bronze medals, behind leaders China with 10 golds and Korea, who are second with six gold medals.

Beginning the day in fourth and seventh spots respectively, Esha and double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, shot confident rapid-fire rounds to sail into the top eight with scores of 587 and 586 respectively. Esha took fifth while Manu took the sixth qualifying spot in the field of 86.

Esha Singh

Yang topped qualifications as well with 591, which came on the back of a stunning 300/300 in the rapid round.

Mixed team silver medalist in Paris Sevval Tarhan of Turkey along with the experienced Iranian Haniyeh Rostamiyan and France's former European and junior world champion Lamolle Mathilde, also went through. Unknown North Korean Kim Hyon Suk made up the final eight.

Rahi Sarnobat's 572 was not enough for the Indian trio to win a team medal as they finished fourth with a tally of 1745, three short off the bronze winning French team.

Kadur, Mascarenhas renew rivalry

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's Karna Kadur and seasoned co-driver Musa Sherif of Arka Motorsports are expected to face a tough challenge from talented Dean Mascarenhas and Gagan Karumbaiah of Team TSI Racing at the Robust Rally, the third round of the FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship that got underway with a ceremonial start on Friday, at the Coorg Institute of Technology.

Multiple National champion Kadur, supported by MRF Tyres, has a comfortable 28-point lead but will face fierce opposition from Mangalore ace Mascarenhas, who bounced back strongly after missing the opening round.

Spearheading the TSI Racing team challenge, Mascarenhas, will pilot a newly-imported left-hand-drive Peugeot 208 Rally4, with which he dominated the Coimbatore leg with co-driver Karumbaiah and is keen to continue that momentum on Kodagu's fast yet technical gravel.

Dominant Sen in semis

KUMAMOTO (JAPAN), PTI: Top Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen registered an upset straight-game win over former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore to storm into the semifinals of the USD 475,000 Kumamoto Masters Japan here on Friday.

Commonwealth Games champion Sen, seeded seventh, produced a superlative performance to outclass world No. 9 Loh 21-13, 21-17 in 40 minutes, extending his dominance over the Singaporean with a seventh win in 10 career meetings.

Sen, who endured a lean patch before rediscovering his touch with a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Open followed by quarterfinal appearances at the Denmark and Hylo Open, will now face Japan's sixth seed and world No. 13 Kenta Nishimoto in the last four stage.

Coming in with a 6-3 head-to-head lead, Sen, the 2021 World Championship bronze winner, displayed impressive all-round control to dismantle Loh, who has been struggling for some time. The two were tied 4-4 early in the opening game before Sen broke away to take an 11-8 lead at the interval. He reeled off six straight points after the break to move 18-9 ahead and comfortably closed out the game.

Loh showed better resistance in the second game, staying level with Sen at 9-9, but the Indian once again pulled ahead to 15-9. The Singaporean narrowed the gap to 17-18, but Sen held firm to seal the match.

Lakshya Sen

Erigaisi, Harikrishna held in a day of draws

MANISHA MOHITE

Arjun Erigaisi, the highest-rated player now in the tournament, had to stay content with a draw against two-time World Cup winner Levon Aronian in the first game of the fifth round of the FIDE World Cup in progress at Resort Rios in Goa.

Pentala Harikrishna was held to a well-fought draw by Jose Martinez Alcantara of Mexico.

In fact, all the eight games were fought intensely but there was only one decisive result with Javokhir Sindharov grinding a victory against Frederik Svane, who erred in the last stages of the game in an equal appearing position. Sindharov piled pressure to clinch victory after 68 moves.

Saturday will be a high-pressure game for both the Indians where Harikrisha will wield Whites and Arjun will play Blacks. A victory for either means entry into the sixth round while a draw will mean that they would have to fight it out in tie-break to be played on Sunday. A loss, however, for either would mean ouster from the event. 206 players, including 24 Indians, had qualified for this eight-round knockout event. At stake are three qualifying slots for the Candidates and the tile, not to mention the prize money.

Praggnanandhaa, despite the shocking elimination on Thursday, has more or less assured a slot for the Candidates by leading the FIDE circuit and there seems to be no players who can catch up with him at the end of the year.

Erigaisi and Aronian battled it out in a Queen's Gambit Declined game where the former at times appeared to hold a very tiny edge. Aronian pondered long on the 21st turn, consuming almost 30 minutes, indicating that he had sensed trouble.

Aronian then played accurately, simplified the proceedings by trading queens to reach a double rook, each ending with an extra pawn for Arjun. It was obvious that Erigaisi would press and try to nurse this advantage. Aronian's rooks were active while one of Erigaisi's rook was stuck on the Kingside without much movement. After 41 moves, Erigaisi decided to call it a day by repetition of moves, realising that pressing further would jeopardise his position.

Harikrishna, one of the most experienced players in the tournament, and Martinez started the Italian way. After the exchange of queens on the 23rd turn, White was left with most isolated pawns in the rook and pawn ending with a dead equal position and the point split on the 41st turn.

There was some drama in a ding-dong game between Dubov and Shankland in a Spanish Opening with the game swinging either way and refusal of a draw offer. Shankland blundered in the end-game but it went unnoticed by Dubov, missing the route to victory. Draw was sealed on the 57th move.

India's P Harikrishna (right) makes a move during his match against Jose Martinez Alcantara in Goa on Friday. FIDE/ ETERI KUBLASHVILI

Results (Round 5.1): GM Pentala Harikrishna (ind) drew GM Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara (Mex); GM Arjun Erigaisi (Ind) drew GM Levon Aronian (USA); GM Sindharov Javokhir (Uzb) beat GM Frederik Svane (Ger); GM San Shankland (USA) drew GM Daniil Dubov; Alexander Dovchenko drew GM Le Quang Liem (Vie); GM Gabriel Sargissian drew Nodirbek Yukubboev; GM Andrey Esipenko drew GM Aleksey Grebnev; GM Samuel Sevian drew with GM Wei Yi.

IN BRIEF

SSA score 12-0 win

▸ Jagadesh, Selvamani, Prathiuvanan and Sundar scored a brace each as Samanth Sports Academy thrashed Yes for Hockey GS A 12-0 in the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship on Friday, reports DHNS.

Results: Samanth Sports Academy: 12 (Jagadesh 1st, 10th, Ragahvan 3rd, Selvamani 9th, 37th, Santhosh Kumar R 12th, Yuvan Babu D 14th, Sundar 19th, 23rd, Prathiuvanan 21st, 48th, Hemachandran 35th) bt Yes for Hockey GS A: 0; BDHA: 6 (Abhishek Konkani 12th, 41st, Shlok Marathe 14th, Ritesh Jadhav 30th, 36th, Devaindra Vaishnav 38th) bt Anglo Indian Hockey Club: 2 (Aakash 10th, 13th).

State Jr Water Polo C'ships

▸ The Karnataka Swimming Association (KSA) will host the NRJ State Junior Water Polo Championship on November 15 and 16 at the Mysore University Swimming Pool, reports DHNS.

A total of nine teams from various KSA-affiliated clubs will participate in the championship, which returns after an eight-year hiatus, with the games scheduled between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Rathika bags 2nd PSA title

▸ Top seed Rathika Suthanthira Seelan clinched the second PSA title of her career after defeating fourth seed Kiwi Maiden-Lee Coe 3-0 in the Bondi Open final in Sydney on Friday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Rathika notched up a 11-7, 11-6, 11-7 win to lift the title without dropping a game.

SA not complaining about 'bauna' remark at Bavuma

KOLKATA, PTI: South Africa batting coach Ashwell Prince on Friday played down the stump-mic chatter involving Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah and wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, saying the visitors will have "no discussion" around the incident during the opening day's play in the first Test at the Eden Gardens.

The exchange happened on the last ball of the 13th over in South Africa's innings when at 62 for two, a leg-before appeal from Bumrah against Proteas captain Temba Bavuma was turned down.

During the conversation about whether to take the DRS, the stump mic picked up Bumrah saying, "bauna bhi hai," a remark many interpreted as a taunt at Bavuma's height.

Prince, however, distanced the team from any such controversy during the interaction after the opening day's proceedings.

"No, there will be no discussion. It's the first time, obviously, it's come to my attention. I don't think there'll be any issues with what's happened out in the middle," Prince said.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st Test: India vs South Africa **(day 2, 9:30 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Asia Cup Rising Stars: Bangladesh A vs Hong Kong **(12 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

World Cup Qualifiers: Kazakhstan vs Belgium **(7:30 pm)**, Georgia vs Spain, Turkiye vs Bulgaria **(both 10:30 pm)**, Bosnia-Herzegovina vs Romania, Denmark vs Belarus, Greece vs Scotland, Switzerland vs Sweden **(all 1:15 am, Sunday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS

ATP Finals: Doubles round robin **(4:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2.**

BJKC Playoffs: India vs Slovenia **(3 pm). LIVE** on **DD Sports.**

BADMINTON

Japan Open: Semifinal **(6:30 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Booming Bumrah leaves Proteas in a wreck

Pacer bags a fifer as India bowl out visitors for 159

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

It had been a while since Jasprit Bumrah stamped his authority on a match with a course-changing show. With "workload management" being the buzzword around the pacer since his return from a back surgery early this year, the 31-year-old has been employed sparingly and while his impact has been even more sparse. But then you can't keep a good player down for too long, and Bumrah chose Eden Gardens' stage to send a gentle reminder about his class with a splendid fifer.

The Gujarat pacer's 16th five-wicket haul (5/27) in his 51st Test took the wind out of South African sails as India seized early initiative on the opening day of the first Test here on Friday. Opener Aiden Markram (31) was the top-scorer as the visitors folded up for what now appears to be an inadequate 159 with Mohammed Siraj (2/47) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/36) playing their part.

The fading light brought an early end to the day's proceedings with India reaching 37 for the loss of Yashasvi Jaiswal. KL Rahul (13 n.o.) and Washington Sundar (6 n.o.) were keeping vigil at stumps.

The pitch had something for the bowlers; while the variable bounce and perceptible turn kept the spinners interested, pacers relished movement off the seam and, later, some reverse swing. Still, the wicket wasn't as bad as South African batters made it out to be. With the pitch, however, expected to suffer more and tear, India would be looking to bat their rivals out of the game.

Bavuma got it right when his Indian counterpart Shubman Gill flicked the coin and chose to bat as expected.

For about 50 minutes, South Africa were in control of the proceedings here on the well-attended opening day. Markram and Ryan Rickelton (23) looked comfortable against both Bumrah and Siraj. While they didn't take chances against Bumrah, the duo took a great liking to Siraj, smashing 25 runs in his first three overs and forcing an early change.

Axar Patel, the first of the four spinners India brought in on the day, was carted for three fours and a six in his three overs as Gill looked to Ravindra Jadeja.

Trivia time: This is the first time since the 2012 Test against England in Nagpur that India have fielded four spinners in a match. R Ashwin, Jadeja, Pragyan Ojha and Piyush Chawla featured in the drawn Test.

Coming back to South Africa innings, it wasn't long before they reached fifty as India desperately searched for a breakthrough. Gill's instinct and Bumrah's class combined to deliver just that. India have been using Bumrah in short bursts to manage his once-dodgy back but on the day, Gill gave him an extended spell.

The right-arm quick, coming round the wicket against Rickelton, rearranged the stumps with an angled delivery when the left-hander closed the face of the bat. Markram, who was dealing in boundaries, received an unplayable one from Bumrah with the ball rearing sharply, compelling the batter to edge it to a diving Rishabh Pant. Kuldeep soon made it three, scalping Bavuma through a leg-side trap. Wiaan Mulder and Toni de Zorzi saw off the first session without further damage.

Jasprit Bumrah

The middle session moved rapidly as the Indian bowlers' guile and the vagaries of the pitch combined to spell doom for South Africa. From 105/3 at lunch to 154/8 at tea, the reigning world Test champions unravelled quickly. Mulder fell to Kuldeep in an attempt to reverse sweep, triggering a collapse. De Zorzi became Bumrah's third victim, caught in front to a sharp incoming ball, while Siraj had Kyle Verreynne lbw for his first scalp. Incredibly, all three batters reviewed their on-field decisions and found all of them to be plumb in front.

With all three reviews for the innings wasted, Keshav Maharaj couldn't reverse the on-field LBW verdict against him though the replays revealed Bumrah's ball would have missed the leg-stump. The bowler wasn't complaining, India were jubilating and the 36000-plus crowd lapped up each moment.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA (I INNINGS)

Markram c Pant b Bumrah (52m, 48b, 5x4, 1x6)	31
Rickelton b Bumrah (46m, 22b, 4x4)	23
Mulder lbw Kuldeep (84m, 51b, 3x4)	24
Bavuma c Jurel b Kuldeep (21m, 11b)	3
de Zorzi lbw Bumrah (72m, 55b, 1x4, 1x6)	24
Stubbs (not out) (120m, 74b, 1x4)	15
Verreynne lbw Siraj (53m, 36b, 2x4)	16
Jansen b Siraj (4m, 3b)	0
Bosch lbw Axar (29m, 23b)	3
Harmer b Bumrah (10m, 5b, 1x4)	5
Maharaj lbw Bumrah (2m, 3b)	0
Extras (B-8, LB-4, NB-1, W-2)	15
Total (all out, 55 overs)	**159**

Fall of wickets: 1-57 (Rickleton), 2-62 (Markram), 3-71 (Bavuma), 4-114 (Mulder), 5-120 (de Zorzi), 6-146 (Verreynne), 7-147 (Jansen), 8-154 (Bosch), 9-159 (Harmer).

Bowling: Bumrah 14-5-27-5 (w-1, nb-1), Siraj 12-0-472-2 (w-1), Axar 6-2-21-1, Kuldeep 14-1-36-2, Jadeja 8-2-13-0, Washington 1-0-3-0.

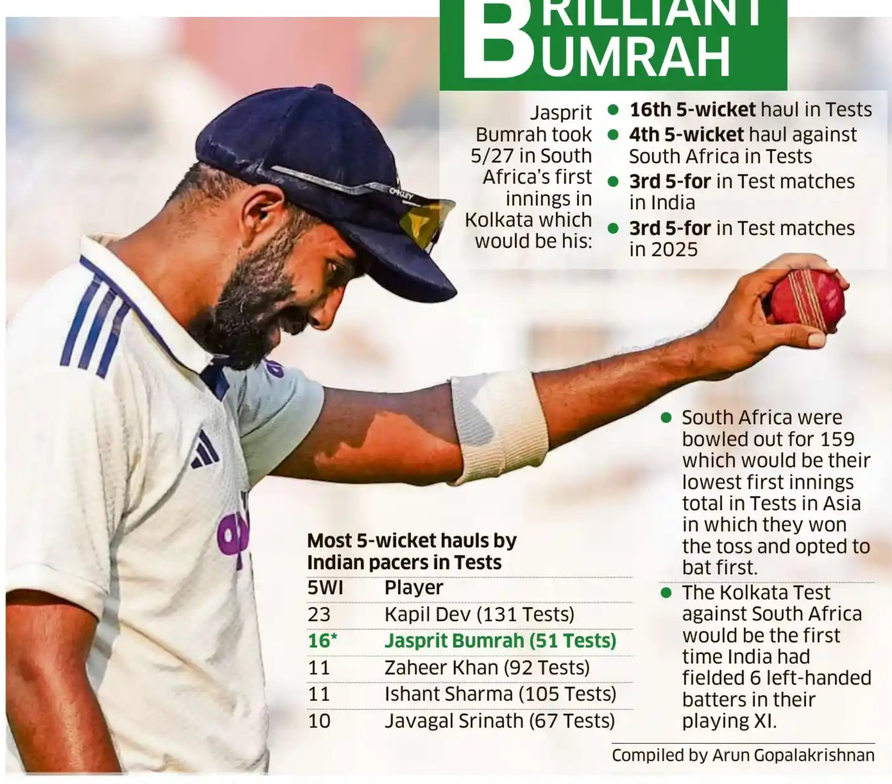
INDIA (I INNINGS):

Jaiswal b Jansen (27b, 35m, 3x4)	12
Rahul (batting) (59b, 2x4)	13
Washington (batting) (38b)	6
Extras (LB-2, NB-4)	6
Total (for 1 wkt, 20 overs)	**37**

Fall of wicket: 1-18 (Jaiswal).

Bowling: Jansen 6-2-11-1 (nb-2), Mulder 5-1-15-0 (nb-2), Maharaj 5-1-8-0, Bosch 3-2-1-0, Harmer 1-1-0-0.

BRILLIANT BUMRAH



Jasprit Bumrah took 5/27 in South Africa's first innings in Kolkata which would be his:

- **16th 5-wicket** haul in Tests
- **4th 5-wicket** haul against South Africa in Tests
- **3rd 5-for** in Test matches in India
- **3rd 5-for** in Test matches in 2025

Most 5-wicket hauls by Indian pacers in Tests

5WI	Player
23	Kapil Dev (131 Tests)
16*	**Jasprit Bumrah (51 Tests)**
11	Zaheer Khan (92 Tests)
11	Ishant Sharma (105 Tests)
10	Javagal Srinath (67 Tests)

- South Africa were bowled out for 159 which would be their lowest first innings total in Tests in Asia in which they won the toss and opted to bat first.
- The Kolkata Test against South Africa would be the first time India had fielded 6 left-handed batters in their playing XI.

Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates after completing his five-wicket haul against South Africa on Friday. PTI

'Feels good to make an impact as a pacer on Indian pitches'

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

It's not often that Jasprit Bumrah claims a fifer in a Test and India still end up on the wrong side of a result. Out of his 15 five-wicket hauls in 50 completed matches, India have won nine, drawn two and lost only four with two of them coming during the recent tour of England (Leeds and Lord's) besides one on his debut against South Africa in Cape Town in 2018.

The fate of his 16th career five-wicket haul is yet to be decided, but it has certainly put India in a position from where they can fancy their chances of winning. On a warm Friday here at the Eden Gardens, the 31-year-old pacer ripped the heart out of South Africa batting for impressive figures of 5/27, ending the visitors' innings at 159 in 55 overs. From his first over, after Temba Bavuma opted to bat first, Bumrah was on the money though a wicket eluded him for a while. Even as Mohammed Siraj leaked runs at one end, Bumrah kept it tight, teasing the outside edge or rapping the pads.

The wicket appeared to be around the corner, but these days the team management has to keep an eye on his workload as well. Spells of 3-4 overs have been the norm in recent months, but skipper Shubman Gill kept him in attack even after five overs. Result: wickets in sixth and seventh overs. Impact: South Africa could muster only 102 more runs after a 57-run opening stand.

The pitch did offer some help for the bowlers, but it wasn't a sub-160 wicket either. The variable bounce and turn kept both pacers and spinners in business but it wasn't until Bumrah found his length right that wickets began to fall. Bumrah explained the reason behind finding his range late in his opening spell.

"When the ball is nice and hard, maybe the deviation would be a little quicker," Bumrah reasoned. "As and when the ball becomes softer, the deviation becomes less and then your accuracy comes into play. So, when I bowled the first over, everything happened. The ball swung, it stayed low, it went high. So, I said, it is a little difficult to understand what is the right length.

"So, you keep bowling and you keep figuring things out 'okay, it is shaping in this manner.' So, that was my reading initially that first 3-4 balls, everything happened. As and when the ball became softer, it did settle down. It was not happening a lot and the deviation was not consistent. So, then we realised, yes, when the ball is nice and hard, the seam is pronounced, it will do a little more. And then as and when the ball becomes softer, it will settle."

Most of Bumrah's wickets came off deliveries that were just short of length, leaving the batters undecided as to press forward or stay put. The pacer made most of this indecisiveness to reap rich rewards.

Conditions have hardly mattered to Bumrah -- be it the seaming surfaces in England or the fast, bouncy pitches in Australia or slow and low wickets at home. That said wickets at home, where spinners generally gobble up the majority of wickets, it must be more rewarding to pick fifers.

"You know, whenever you play in India, usually it is known that the spinners will pick up a lot of wickets," he noted. "So, whenever you are able to make an impact, with the limited space, because we know we have majority spinners in our line-up, you know you will come in short bursts and you want to make an impact. It always feels good whenever you are able to make an impact. You keep pressure. So, from both ends, there is pressure being created. So, yeah, very happy with the performance."

Suryavanshi slams second fastest T20 ton by an Indian

DOHA, PTI : Young opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi **(in pic)** smashed a blistering joint second fastest T20 hundred by an Indian batter, propelling India A to a thumping 148-run win over United Arab Emirates in the Asia Cup Rising Stars here on Friday.

Suryavanshi made 144 off 42 balls (11x4s, 15x6s) and skipper Jitesh Sharma scored 83 off 32b as India piled up a massive 297 for 4 in 20 overs.

UAE were never in contention and ended up at 149/7, with left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh (3/18) leading India's bowling effort.

UAE middle-order batter Shoaib Khan made a 41-ball 63 to offer a token of resistance.

But Suryvanshi was the brightest star in the desert night, bringing up his hundred in just 32 balls to equal Rishabh Pant's mark made for Delhi against Himachal Pradesh in 2018.

The 14-year-old brought up his century with a nicely timed four off pacer Muhammad Arfan in the 10th over.

Suryvanshi had a silent partner in Naman Dhir (34), and the second wicket pair added 168 runs in a little over 10 overs as runs flowed in at 16 per over.

However, Suryavanshi could not overhaul compatriots Abhishek Sharma and Urvil Patel, the fastest Indian hundred-makers in T20s -- off 28 balls.

Suryavanshi batted in a single gear throughout his innings, and the UAE left-arm spinner Harshit Kaushik was at the receiving end of the Indian's aggression.

Brief scores: India: 297/4 in 20 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 144, Naman Dir 34, Jitesh Sharma 83) bt UAE: 149/7 in 20 overs (Sohaib Khan 63, Muhammad Arfan 26; Gurjapneet Singh 3-18, Harsh Dubey 2-12). **Result:** India A won by 148 runs. **PoM:** Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

QPL pays tribute to 'Tree Mother'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The KNS Queens Premier League (QPL) Season 2 entered its final stretch with an emotional and action-packed fifth day at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium. The league, which has been celebrating women's sports across Karnataka, paused its high-energy contests to pay heartfelt tribute to Padma Shri awardee and environmental crusader Saalumarada Thimmakka, whose demise has saddened people across the state.

In honour of the legendary "Tree Mother," QPL players and organisers planted saplings inside the Koramangala Indoor Stadium premises — a symbolic gesture that reflected Thimmakka's lifelong dedication to nurturing nature. The tribute added a deeper meaning to the day's events, capturing the spirit of respect and responsibility the league aims to promote.

Participants of Queens Premier League Season 2 pay homage to 'Tree Mother' Saalumarada Thimmakka at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium on Friday.

The fifth day also saw the presence of several Sandalwood celebrities including Ugram Manju, Manoj Ravichandran and Bell Bottom movie producer Santhosh Kumar KC, who attended the event to encourage the women athletes. The matches featured spirited lagori and cricket contests, keeping the audience engaged throughout the day.

With the preliminary rounds completed, excitement is now building for the grand finals scheduled to take place on Saturday at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium. Teams will battle it out for supremacy across multiple categories, including cricket, lagori, chess, ludo, carrom and tug of war, showcasing the league's diverse sporting talent.

The finals will be followed by a special closing ceremony, graced by actress Ramya, the official face of QPL Season 2. Her presence is expected to draw huge crowds as fans gather to witness both the thrilling matches and the celebratory performances planned for the evening.

Entry to the event is free, encouraging families, sports lovers and the general public to join the festivities and cheer for their favourite teams and celebrities.

As the Queens Premier League prepares for its culminating day, the event stands out not only for its competitive spirit but also for its meaningful tribute to Saalumarada Thimmakka — blending sport, culture and social responsibility in a memorable finale.

France punch ticket to Americas

PARIS, AFP: France reached the 2026 World Cup with a 4-0 win over Ukraine on Thursday as the country marked the 10th anniversary of the 2015 Paris attacks, while Portugal were made to wait after losing 2-0 in Dublin as Cristiano Ronaldo saw red.

Norway must also be patient after Italy struck late in Moldova to prevent them from stamping their ticket to next year's tournament in North America.

France's victory came in an emotionally-charged Parc des Princes, which observed a minute's silence to mark the 10th anniversary of the attacks in and around Paris on Friday, November 13, 2015.

Nigeria still alive

Star striker Victor Osimhen scored twice in extra time to clinch a 4-1 victory for Nigeria over Gabon on Thursday in an African 2026 World Cup qualifying semifinal in Rabat.

Curacao go to top

Curacao closed in on a 2026 World Cup berth on Thursday, routing Bermuda 7-0 to go top of their group in CONCACAF qualifying as Jamaica were held to a 1-1 draw by Trinidad and Tobago.

Pak beat SL to seal ODI series amid tensions

RAWALPINDI, REUTERS

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the second one-day international in Rawalpindi to seal the three-game series 2-0 on Friday amid the backdrop of security concerns and tension in the tourists' camp following a suicide bombing earlier this week.

Babar Azam

Sri Lanka cricketers had requested to return home from their Pakistan tour on Wednesday for safety reasons after a suicide bombing in Islamabad, which is close to Rawalpindi, but their board issued a stern directive to stay put or face consequences.

Pakistan then deployed army and paramilitary forces to protect Sri Lanka's cricket team, with Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir assuring Sri Lankan Defence Minister Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon of the team's safety.

Chasing 289 for victory, Pakistan's Babar Azam led the charge with a patient century -- his 20th ODI ton and his first in 84 international innings -- as the hosts overhauled Sri Lanka's total with 10 balls to spare.

Top order fail

After being put into bat, Sri Lanka started brightly as the openers put up a 51-run stand before Pathum Nissanka was run out attempting a third run.

The top order showed promise but could not capitalise, with Sadeera Samarawickrama (42) falling short of a half-century when he was bowled by Haris Rauf.

But Janith Liyanage (54) and Kamindu Mendis (44) provided the innings' backbone with a crucial 73-run stand while Wanindu Hasaranga was unbeaten on 37. Rauf and Abrar Ahmed each claimed three wickets.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 288/8 in 50 overs (Kamil Mishara 27, Sadeera Samawickrama 42, Janith Liyanage 54, Kamindu Mendis 44, Wanindu Hasaranga 37; Haris Rauf 3-66, Abrar Ahmed 3-41) lt to Pakistan: 289/2 in 48.2 overs (Fakhar Zaman 78, Saim Ayub 33, Babar Azam 102 n.o., Mohammad Rizwan 51; Dushmantha Chameera 2-58). **Result:** Pak won by 8 wkts. **PoM:** Babar Azam.

PBKS release Maxwell and Hardie

LUCKNOW, PTI: Punjab Kings on Friday released Australian all-rounders Glenn Maxwell and Aaron Hardie along with Indian domestic players Kuldeep Sen and Vishnu Vinod ahead of the Indian Premier League mini auction next month.

Maxwell had a forgettable run in this year's IPL featuring in only seven matches in which he made a mere 48 runs and took four wickets, before being ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to a finger injury.

The veteran Australian all-rounder was subsequently replaced by compatriot Mitchell Owen.

Hardie, who had joined Punjab Kings for a price of Rs 1.25 crores in the auction, did not feature for the team and is among the players released ahead of the mini auction to take place in Abu Dhabi on December 16, an IPL source confirmed.

The right-arm seamer Sen and wicketkeeper-batter Vinod, both were a part of the PBKS side which lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the final, did not feature in any of the matches of the 2025 edition. Sen had joined Punjab Kings for Rs 80 lakhs.

Kylian Mbappe

Aastha Prasanna Rao

Aastha pockets IGU title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Aastha Prasanna Rao scored a 10-shot victory to runaway with the girls' category 'C' title in the IGU Maharashtra Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship at the Oxford Golf Resort in Pune on Friday.

The Bengaluru girl, who trains at the Bangalore Golf Club, carded a final round three-over 75. This was an improved show after the opening two rounds of 82 and 81 as she finished with a three-day total of 238.

Final result (after 54 holes):
Category 'C': 238: Aastha Prasanna Rao (82-81-75); **248:** Vanyaa Singh (84-83-81); **252:** Gairat Kaur Kahlon (86-83-83).

Chapha 'tricks in BFC's romp

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chapha Mayum Rohen Singh scored a hat-trick as former champions Bengaluru FC thumped MFAR Students Union FC 8-1 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship here on Friday.

Serto Wornalen Kom, MD Arbash and Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh scored a goal apiece for the Blues, who were also assisted by an own from Arun K Nadarajan.

Results: Sporting Club Bengaluru: 2 (Ishaan Raghunandan 38th, Udit G 60th) bt Bangalore Dream United FC: 1 (Rodu Duo 78th); BFC: 8 (Serto Wornalen Kom 6th, 36th, Arun Kumar Nadarajan 21st og, Chapha Mayum Rohen Singh 34th, 75th, 82nd, MD Arbash 47th, Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh 72nd) bt MFAR Students Union FC: 1 (Malsawm Dawng Kima 45+2); MEG & Centre FC: 4 (Shobhtt Chhetri 35th, Niyas Nazar 67th, Lalvenhima 70th, Sarath Narayanan 90+3) bt Bharat Bengaluru FC: 0.

FOOTBALL

Zaragoza leaves

Head coach and Bengaluru FC part ways after mutual consent

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Head coach Gerard Zaragoza (above), assistant coach Sebastian Vega and S&C coach Ioannis Gkiokas parted ways with Bengaluru FC on Friday.

Bengaluru FC have confirmed that head coach Gerard Zaragoza has left the club by mutual terms, effective immediately.

Assistant coach Sebastian Vega and strength and conditioning coach Ioannis Gkiokas also parted ways with BFC on Friday.

"Bengaluru FC have parted ways with Head Coach Gerard Zaragoza under mutual terms. Assistant Coach Sebastian Vega and Strength and Conditioning Coach, Ioannis Gkiokas, have also left the club. The club would like to thank Gerard and his staff for their time at Bengaluru FC and we wish him the best in his pursuit of a newer challenge," BFC said in a statement, announcing the departure of Zaragoza.

Renedy Singh, who is the first-team assistant coach, has been named the interim head coach with immediate effect.

"Assistant Coach Renedy Singh has been named Interim Head Coach, and will take charge of the first team with immediate effect," the club added.

The decision comes amid the growing uncertainty with the sport in the country with the Indian Super League's (ISL) tender process failing to even attract a single bid.

The Blues, under Zaragoza in their most recent outings, managed to win two games in the AIFF Super Cup against Mohammedan Sporting Club (0-2) and Gokulam Kerala (0-4), but were ousted by Punjab FC (4-5) on penalties, knocking them out of the competition.

Zaragoza, who was appointed the head coach in December 2023, helped the Blues finish fourth in the ISL 2024-25 season with 38 points from 24 games, winning 11 matches and going down eight times.

The Spanish tactician, who instilled an attacking 4-3-3 formation into the side, scored 40 goals during the season, the fifth highest in the league, while conceding 31.

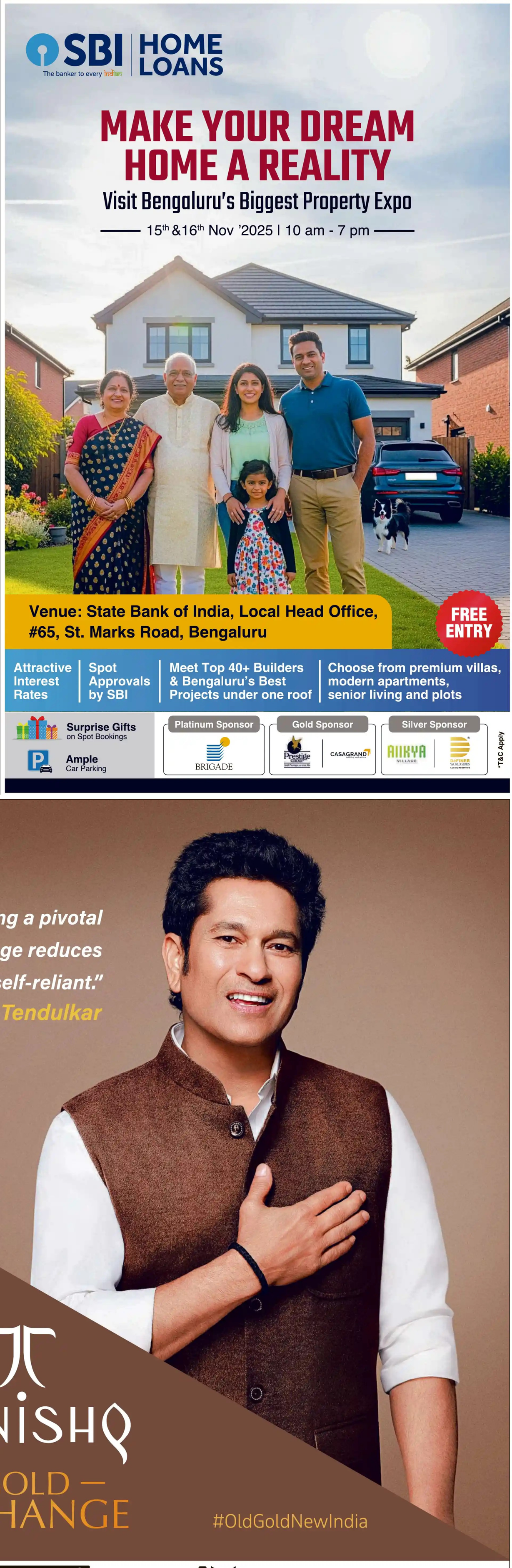
Bengaluru FC, having not been in contention for any titles the previous season, reached the ISL final under the Spaniard, but ran out of gas against Mohun Bagan in Kolkata.

This also ends Zaragoza's second term in Bengaluru FC colours, having already been a part of BFC's ISL-winning squad during the 2018-19 season, acting as a deputy to his fellow country-mate Carles Cuadrat.

Shuttlers Rohan, Punya emerge champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Raichur's Rohan Karuturi and Bengaluru Urban's Punya MN grabbed the headlines at the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State U-11 and U-13 Badminton Championship in Raichur, claiming the U-13 boys' and girls' titles respectively.

Results(all finals): Boys: U-13 Singles: Rohan Karuturi (Raichur) bt 1-Ishaan Pathak (Raichur) 21-11, 22-20
Doubles: Ishaan Pathak/2-Rohan Karuturi (Raichur) bt Daksh Dhotrad/Sanshray Sunil (Bengaluru Urban) 21-15, 18-21, 21-17
Girls: Singles: 1-Punya Mn (Bengaluru Urban) bt Vrishti Kaveramma (Bengaluru Urban) 21-11, 21-17
Doubles: Johanna Ahilan/4-Punya Mn (Bengaluru Urban) bt Hanvittha KA/Lisha V (Bengaluru Rural) 21-15, 19-21, 21-12
Boys: U-11 Singles: 1-Agastya A (Bengaluru Urban) bt Pranav Reddy Pocha (Bengaluru Urban) 21-16, 21-14.
Doubles: Agastya A/ 2-Tharun Chandramohan (Bengaluru Urban) bt Neev Shushrut Adigon (Bengaluru Rural)/Pranav Nimmaggadda (Bengaluru Urban) 21-17, 22-24, 21-19
Girls: Singles: 1-Shreeya A Rao (Bengaluru Urban) bt Gowri Santosh (Bengaluru Urban) 21-12, 21-9.
Doubles: JM Niharika Raj Niharika/Shreeya A Rao (Bengaluru Urban) bt Hesha Sai Rajeshkumar/Kushi R (Bengaluru Urban) 16-21, 21-18, 21-15.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WE RAJESH B & Poornima K, No.221, Bindu Amulya Apartments, Muddinapalya Main Road, Anjana Nagar, Bangalore – 560 091 here by declare that our son name has to be change Evansh Raj R in his birth certificate DOB 03/02/2020 Registration no 803162/B/B/2020/023004. Our son's correct name is UDAYAA PARRTHA Vide affidavit dated 18/10/2025 Sworn before notary B.Chaitra

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NYIMA BHUTTI P,** residing at House No. S-3, Tibetan Settlement, Kollegal Taluk, Odeyarapalya, Huttur, Chamarajnagar-571457, Karnataka, India, have changed my name to **NYIMA BHUTI** vide affidavit dated 12.11.2025 before notary B.M. Chandrashekar. Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **NYIMA BHUTI** only

WE RAJESH B & Poornima K, No.221, Bindu Amulya Apartments, Muddinapalya Main Road, Anjana Nagar, Bangalore – 560 091 here by declare that our son name has to be change Ekansh Raj R in his birth certificate DOB 03/02/2020 Registration no 803162/B/B/2020/023006. Our son's correct name is JISHNU TEJA Vide affidavit dated 18/10/2025 sworn before notary B.Chaitra

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Naveena Subramanyam,** residing at # 216, 19th Cross, R.T. Nagar, 1st Block, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my name to **NAVEENA GANJUR SUBRAMANYAM** vide affidavit dated 13.11.2025 before notary Meera Hassan, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Anuradha Ramachandran @ Anuradha Ramchandran,** residing at No.33, Lakshmi Vihara, 6th and 7th Cross, B K Residency, Doddakammanahalli, Gottigere, Bengaluru-560 083, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **ANURADHA RAMACHANDRAN** vide affidavit dated 13.11.2025 before notary Pushpavathi B.S, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **UMA DESHAPANDE,** residing at D-1105, Wing-2, KHB Platinum, Near Shirke Bus Stop, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru - 60, have changed my name to **SHUBHA S MELMURI** vide affidavit dated 12-11-2025 sworn before Notary Surekha V, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **SHUBHA S MELMURI** only.

ARUNAKUMARI PRAKSH, Naganayakanakote, Samethanahalli, Hosakote, Bengaluru-67, Have changed my name to R. ARUNAKUMARI. vide affidavit dated- 14/11/2025

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Manzar Ahmed Khan,** residing at # C001, Nakshatra Apartment, Opposite Sidhartha PU College, 7th Cross, Lingarajpuram, Bengaluru - 560084, have changed my minor daughter's name from **AIRAH FARYAL KHAN** to **AMEERA KHAN** vide affidavit dated 14-11-2025 before notary L. Gopalakrishnan, Bengaluru.

GIREESHA YELIYUR VENKATESHAIAH #5-8-1, 1st Main, 7th Cross, Govindrajnagar, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru-40, Have changed my name to GIRISH Y.V. vide affidavit dated- 13/11/2025

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Vani, Vani Ramachandran @ Vani Ramchandran,** residing at No.33, Lakshmi Vihara, 6th and 7th Cross, B K Residency, Doddakammanahalli, Gottigere, Bengaluru-560 083, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **VANI RAMACHANDRAN** vide affidavit dated 13.11.2025 before notary Pushpavathi B.S, Bengaluru.

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The following industrial plots were allotted by The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) in favour of **M/s. Dhariwal Industrial Pvt. Ltd.** (formerly M/s. Dhariwal Industrial Limited). Subsequently, the properties have been allotted to our clients M/s. R.M.D. Foods & Beverages (P) ltd, situated at S.No 210, 15th Floor, "Manickchand Skyone" Final Plot No 72 A Pune-411 006, by the high Court of Bombay in a scheme of Management sought under sections 391 to 394 read with section 100 to 103 of Companies Act 1956 vide order date 28.08.2024 in Company Petition Nos. 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195 &196 all of the year 2014.

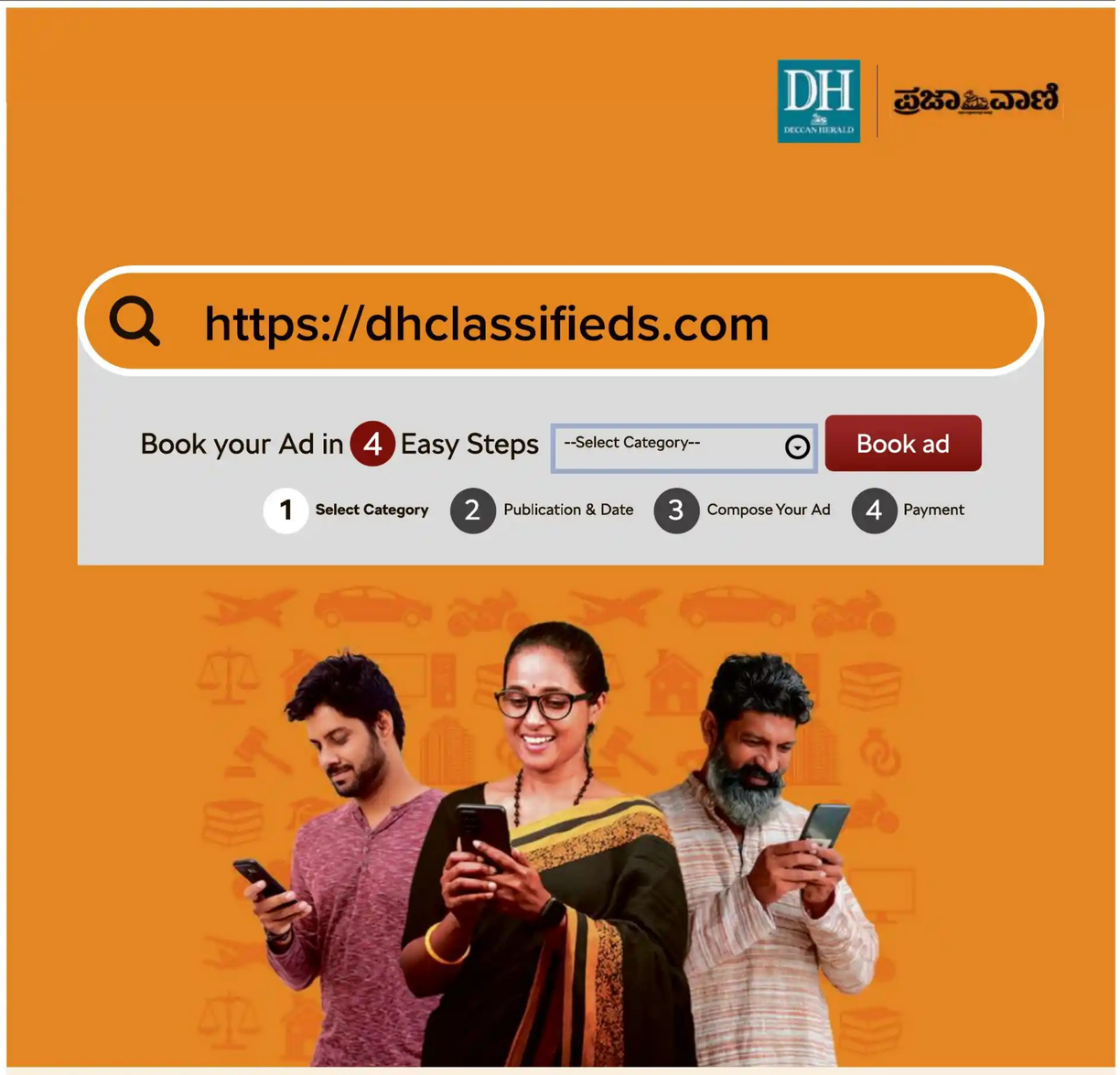
Our clients, M/s. R.M.D. Foods & Beverages (P) ltd hereby Notify that the following original documents relating to the below-mentioned plots have been reported lost/misplaced and are not traceable despite diligent search.

Plot No.	Description of Documents	Date	KIADB Document No.
34-A, B & C	1. Possession Certificate 2. Lease-Cum-Sale Agreement 3. Sale Deed	09.04.2009, 07.09.2009, 16.11.2015	Doc. Nos. 3357/2009-10, 6440/2015-16
34-D	1. Possession Certificate 2. Lease-Cum-Sale Agreement 3. Sale Deed	09.04.2009, 07.09.2009, 29.11.2014	Doc. Nos. 3355/2009-10, 7477/2014-15
34-E	1. Possession Certificate 2. Lease-Cum-Sale Agreement 3. Sale Deed	09.04.2009, 07.09.2009, 16.10.2014	Doc. Nos. 3358/2009-10, 6019/2014-15
34-E1	1. Possession Certificate 2. Lease-Cum-Sale Agreement	23.03.2011, 09.06.2011	Doc. No. 1269/2011-12,

If any person or entity has any claim, objection, or interest in respect of the above-mentioned plots or the aforesaid documents, they are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned in writing within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no such claim or objection is received within the said period, it will be presumed that none exists, and duplicate documents will be sought from the KIADB and/or appropriate authorities.

Please be further notified that any finder-in- possession of the documents shall be suitably rewarded upon delivery of the documents

M.R. Narayan & Co
Advocates,
No 768, 34th Cross, 9th Main. 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru Pin 560 011
Mob. 9448359935



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PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 G+14 MYSORE ROAD NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO ₹ 61.76 - 87.47 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/060923/006244 G+9 TUMKUR ROAD 10 MINS. MADAVARA METRO ₹ 80.30 L- 1.01 Cr*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739 G+3 CHANDAPURA 10 MINS. ELECTRONIC CITY ₹ 60.30 - 98.70 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 G+4 SARJAPURA SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE RD ₹ 63.60 - 83.25 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/150224/006622 G+14 WHITEFIELD ON SOUKYA ROAD ₹ 60.84 L - 1.06 Cr*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/472/PR/250225/007524 G+14 AIRPORT ROAD NR. PRESTIGE TECH CLOUD IT PARK ₹ 72.02 L - 1.21 Cr*

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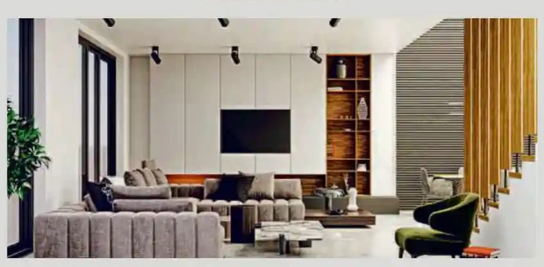

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